Never Sheathe the Sword Until Victory Is Won

Nippon Times

The Die Is Cast, Let's Fight to the Last!

No. 16,074 (THE 18th YEAR of SHOWA) TOKYO, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1943 第三種郵便物認可 昭和十五年十二月二十七日 Price 15 Sen

NIPPON NAVAL AIR UNITS BLAST FOE POSITIONS, SUPPLY DUMPS IN AND AROUND CAPE MERKUS

Big Explosion in One Spot And Fires Started in 11 Other Places

ENEMY IS HIT HARD

3 Additional Transports Sunk In Second Attack on Enemy Convoy on December 21

Imperial Naval Air Units continued to strike heavy blows at the enemy when at dawn of December 22 they effectively bombed the foe's bases and supply dumps in and around Cape Merkus, New Britain Island, causing a big explosion in one place and fires in 11 other places, it was disclosed in a communique issued by the Imperial Headquarters at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

The same communique revealed that in the second attack by Imperial Naval Air Units on an enemy convoy off Cape Merkus on the afternoon of December 21 that five special transports, two of them probably tug-boats, were sunk instead of two special transports as announced in Wednesday's communique. It also revealed that two enemy positions were blasted, not announced in Wednesday's communique. The two torpedo boats announced as sunk and the submarine chaser as heavily damaged in Wednesday's communique were deleted in Thursday's announcement.

Corrected, the results attained in the second attack on the enemy convoy on December 21 were:

A.—Loss dealt to the enemy:
Sunk:
Three special transports (or small transports).
More than two special transports (or tug-boats).
About 30 landing vessels.
Damaged:
One destroyer (set ablaze and heavily damaged).
One transport (heavily damaged).
Numerous landing vessels (heavily damaged).
Blasted:
Two enemy positions.
Shot down:
Three planes.
B.—Loss on our side: Five planes self-blasted or not yet returned.

The communique issued on Thursday follows:

"1. Imperial Naval Air Units at dawn of December 22 bombed the enemy bases and supply dumps in and around Cape Merkus and inflicted tremendous damage on the enemy, causing large fires in two places, a big explosion in one place and caused fires in nine other places.

"2. The war results in the second attack on December 21 launched by Imperial Naval Air Units against the enemy convoy in the vicinity of Cape Merkus, as previously reported, are to be corrected as follows:

"(A) Addition:
Sunk:
Three special transports (or small transports).
More than two special transports (or tug-boats).
Shot down:
Three planes.
Blasted:
Two enemy positions.
"(B) Deletion:
Sunk:
Two torpedo boats.
Damaged:
One submarine chaser (heavily damaged)."

Admits Japanese Attacks

Domei

LISBON, December 23.—Unable to conceal any longer the disastrous attacks carried out by the Japanese Air Forces on the landed American forces on Cape Merkus, New Britain Island, General Douglas MacArthur's Headquarters finally announced today that a large formation of Japanese dive-bombers and fighters numbering over 100 carried out repeated attacks on American positions on December 21, a Melbourne dispatch disclosed.

However true to form, no mention was made of the tremendous damage sustained by their transport convoy off Cape Merkus on the same day. Instead, they have deceivingly issued a vague statement to the effect that operations on Arawe Peninsula are progressing smoothly, the dispatch added.

Cape Torokina Raid By Japanese Airmen Admitted by Enemy

Domei

LISBON, December 23.—A large formation of bombers and fighters of the Imperial Air Force attacked American positions near Cape Torokina on the west coast of Bougainville Island, a Melborne dispatch disclosed quoting the announcement made by the Anti-Axis Headquarters in the Southwestern Pacific issued today.

OUR NAVAL AIRMEN POUND PILELO ISLE

2 Foe Landing Ships Sunk; 6 Raiders of Japan's Central Pacific Bases Destroyed

Domei

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN SOUTH PACIFIC, December 23.—The enemy landing point of Pilelo Island off Cape Merkus, New Britain Island, was heavily pounded at dawn of December 21, when our naval air raiders bombed and scored direct hits on enemy targets there. Huge fires were observed to break out at four places.

Our raiders simultaneously attacked enemy landing vessels in the vicinity sinking two of them. All our planes returned to their base safely.

6 Enemy Planes Hit

Domei

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN CENTRAL PACIFIC, December 22.—Enemy air forces have paid heavily for the series of ineffective raids carried out against our positions in the Central Pacific Islands.

On the morning of December 19, enemy planes raided our positions on Mille Island, in the Marshall Group, three times. The enemy raiders, comprising B-24 bombers and P-40 fighters numbered approximately 30 altogether. Our naval fighter units promptly engaged these enemy raiders, shooting down one B-24 and heavily damaging another which was observed fleeing, emitting black smoke. One of our interceptors was lost in this battle.

At about the same time, a formation of enemy B 24's raided our positions on Taroa Island of the Maloelop Atoll, Marshall Islands. Japanese anti-aircraft batteries brought down one enemy raider.

On the afternoon of December 20, our anti-aircraft batteries hit and set ablaze three enemy raiders, when a formation of 12 B 24's attempted to make another raid on the same positions.

No damage was caused to our positions in either of these enemy raids.

BURMESE CAMPAIGN WORRIES ANTI-AXIS

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—Frankly admitting the difficulty in launching the much heralded anti-Axis counter-offensive against Burma, the New York Times of December 12 pointed out the innumerable obstacles which must be overcome before such a plan can be realized, says a report reaching here.

The New York Times article follows:

"There is no doubt that the anti-Axis forces intend to recapture Burma but several weeks must pass before the valley areas on the Indo-Burmese border, now under water, dry. On the map, Northern India and Burma look like a contінguity of land and one might think that an advance from Assam possible but we must not forget that the region is bristling with rugged mountains 8,000 feet high and is covered with roadless jungles.

"After all amphibious operations in coordination with the navy would be the only means for an effective counter-offensive against Burma but such operations would require the recapture of the air bases on Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Then again, amphibious operations cannot be conducted without the mobilization of a huge force. In any case the anti-Axis will not be able to start a full-fledged campaign until May next year."

FULL EFFORTS OF M.P.'S URGED BY GENERAL ABE

Diet Members Urged by Former Premier to Expedite Passage of Bills

WORLD'S DESTINY AT STAKE

People Must Work On Determinedly to Produce More Aircraft And Foodstuffs

Every effort should be bent at this important moment upon the establishment of the structure for unfailing victory toward which all Greater East Asia is now working, declared General Nobuyuki Abe, President of the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Association, in his speech at a conference of Diet members held Thursday at the Association headquarters in preparation for the 84th session of the Diet to be convened today.

In his speech the former Prime Minister emphasized the vital mission of the Diet to deliberate on the measures submitted to it with the utmost dispatch and thoroughness combined so that the decisive war structure of the nation and of Greater East Asia may be rendered more unshakable than ever.

General Abe said:

"The war has taken on a further tense and grim aspect and the destiny of the nation and rise or fall of Greater East Asia is now at stake in the hostilities in which we are engaged. At such a time, the 84th session of the Imperial Diet which meets tomorrow must be considered of the utmost importance as dealing with the fate of the 1,000,000,000 people of Greater East Asia, or rather, the destiny of the whole world.

Supreme Demand of Moment

"The supreme demand that is to be made upon the Diet at such a moment is, of course, the rapid completion of the decisive war structure of entire Greater East Asia, so that our fighting strength may be epochally increased and the evil ambition and persistent offensive of our enemies may be shattered as with sledge hammer blows.

"At the same time, our mission is to make the substance of the Greater East Asia Declaration clear and permeate the entire world so that the ultimate aims of the Greater East Asia construction work may be fulfilled.

"Despite their repeated miserable defeats, our enemies have been counter-attacking with annoying persistence. The enemy landings in the Solomons and Gilberts and the incessant guerilla operations in the Indo-Burma area all indicate the fretful impatience of our enemies and fluctuations in the enemy camp but, at the same time, they suggest the increasing intensity and grimness of the conflict.

"In view of such a situation, the people behind the lines must work at their respective combat posts with unshakable determination, concentrating everything they have upon the sole aim of victory. The pivotal point of this effort is the increased production of aircraft, supplemented by the effort to produce more foodstuffs.

Importance of Aircraft

"The importance of aircraft has been demonstrated time and again in the Bougainville and Gilbert operations. In regard to the goal of food increase endeavors, self-supply and self-sufficiency must be achieved if our activities in every field are to be bolstered and accelerated. Toward that end the people must strive in unison with the Government.

"In the first year of the war the Government laid the foundations for the establishment of a system for unfailing victory and in the second year the system has been politically built up. At the same time, in keeping with the progress of the war and profiting from the results obtained so far, emergency measures have been taken to increase the fighting strength of the nation from every angle. The Diet, too, has made exertions to assure the maximum efficacy of these measures, showing all-out cooperation with the Government in this regard.

"The war system of the nation has now been completed on the whole, from top to bottom and within and without. The question now is to make the system function with the maximum efficiency. On the part of

(Continued on Page 2)

U.S. Army Corps Suffers Heavy Damages In Attempting Landing at Cape Merkus

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—How the American Sixth Army Corps suffered heavy damages when it attempted to land at Cape Merkus in New Britain on December 15 was revealed by a United Press reporter who was aboard an army transport at the time, according to a report received here.

He writes:

"For 27 minutes prior to the landing, our ship's gunfire was concentrated on the establishments of the Japanese Forces near the places where the landings were to be made.

"The first party of troops to land made a dash toward the beach of the island before daylight. Before they got to the shore they came under the terrific cross fire of the Japanese Forces. More than half of them were killed or wounded, so the remaining troops had to retrace their course.

"In the waters around the spot where the landing was attempted, there were countless numbers of sunken rocks and reefs so they were indescribably dangerous.

"In making the landing, some of our troops used rubber boats.

The landing unit that rode in amphibious tanks and automobiles called Buffalo, Alligator, and Duck, also encountered great difficulty in trying to approach the coast-line of the Arawe Peninsula."

The detailed accounts of the attempt made by the army corps to land on New Britain are described by an American newspaperman who was on a destroyer that escorted the corps to the island.

"Before dawn of that day the ship's loud speakers announced that orders had been issued for the men to begin making preparations for a landing.

"Aided by the moonlight the men went down the rope-ladders into rubber boats.

"At this moment a Japanese scout plane appeared overhead.

"The rubber boats began to move, heading for the beach. When they reached a point about 150 meters from the shore, the Japanese Forces fired their XX milimeter guns. Considerable damage was suffered by the American landing unit.

"The destroyer on which I was shipped commenced a bombardment of the Amarut plantation at Cape Merkus. It lasted for 27 minutes, during which time 350 tons of high explosive shells were fired.

"Soon a Mitchell Liberator bomber unit went into action, and bombed the enemy positions.

"When dawn came, the dangers of attacks by Japanese planes increased with each passing minute. A Thunderbolt fighter unit flew overhead to protect our group of transports.

"The destroyer was busy rescuing the survivors of those who had attempted to land by means of rubber boats.

The third party of men to attempt a landing sustained heavy casualties also when it was attacked by Japanese dive-bombers just as it was on its way to make a landing. Rear-Admiral Daniel Barby, commander of the Seventh amphibious mobile unit, who was directing the landing operations from his destroyer, was fired on by a Japanese plane's machine gun and had a very narrow escape from death."

U.S. WORKERS LACK GOOD HOMES, FOOD

7 Million Americans Living in Shacks, Barns, Trucks; Delinquency Rises

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 20.—In an article captioned "The Fox-holes on the Home Front" Collier's, an American weekly, recently declared, "We hear daily of the grim fox-holes on the fighting fronts, but the home front has fox-holes too—firstly, inadequate housing, food, and sanitation for health; secondly, lack of nurseries, schools, and playgrounds; thirdly, lack of recreation and community friendliness."

The magazine said that these shortcomings were typically exemplified by Mobile City, Alabama, where the population has swollen from 75,000 to 200,000.

"Housing is horrible with defense workers' families sleeping in trailers, tar-paper shacks, and boarded up trucks on every vacant lot licensed as trailer court," the magazine added.

Trailers and Shacks

Describing a tour of the city, Colliers stated, "Lined along the road were more shack colonies and a number of private trailer camps. Some of the latter had a bath-house containing one 'sanitary' toilet and shower for 20 to 30 women and one for as many men."

The magazine said that in the summer the camps all baked and sweltered in the boiling Alabama heat, while in the winter thousands of workers' families face intense cold in unheated barns, damp basements, and crowded, filthy, vermin-ridden shacks.

"All around the year inhuman crowding, lack of any privacy, central spigots of water, and much-used public toilets combine to make a deplorable scene," it reported.

The writer of the article revealed that on one scorching afternoon, he saw a little boy about four years of age locked in a trailer. The author said. "He saw us, waved, hammered on the glass door, and begged to be taken out. His face was crimson with the terrible heat inside the trailer. We could do nothing for him. As we left, he broke into pitiful crying, pressing his small red face against the glass. Sometimes, working mothers will lock three or four children in a trailer together, leaving food for the day. Invariably, they eat all of it at the first meal and she returns to find sick children. Other times, children locked in trailers have found matches or kerosene and have set themselves on fire."

The Collier's magazine said that people spoke of the shortage of doctors, and the lack of school rooms with many children of migrant workers refused admittance into already

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OGAWA PLEDGES AID TO BURMESE PEOPLE

Recently Appointed Highest Economic Adviser Making Arrangements in Shonan

Domei

SHONAN, December 23.—Dr. Gotaro Ogawa, who has been appointed the highest economic adviser to the Burmese Government, arrived here recently and is making necessary business arrangements with the authorities concerned. When interviewed by newspapermen today, he made the following statement:

"I was suddenly ordered to take up the present post. My actions will be decided after a close study of the condition on the spot on my arrival in Rangoon shortly, and then I should like to cooperate with the Burmese Government. I have heard a lot about the Burmese while I was in Japan, and the ultimate objective of my mission is to lead Burma, which is fighting in cooperation with Japan, to a splendid status of growth and development.

"For this purpose, efforts must be made to let Burma consolidate its foundations firmly in the workings of administration and in the financial and economic domains, thereby perfecting Burma's wartime general mobilization structure. At any rate, I am determined to offer my services for the good of Burma on the basis of my past experiences.

"I know Head of State and Prime Minister Ba Maw of Burma, as I talked with him when he visited Tokyo in November to attend the Assembly of Greater East-Asiatic Nations.

"I visited Shonan late in October last year and now I find Shonan quite steady and orderly. This is due to the elevation of the national prestige all the higher and to the smooth workings of Japan's military administration, for which I feel much stronger than ever before."

DECOUX REACHES HANOI

To Study Indiscriminate Raids by Yank Airmen

Domei

HANOI, December 28.—Vice-Admiral Jean Decoux, Governor-General of French Indo-China, who attended the French Indo-China Federal Council held in Saigon, returned here today to study the reactions among the people following the recent indiscriminate raids carried out by the China-based American planes.

He was accompanied by his chief secretary and other various bureau directors, but his stay here is expected to be brief.

CONSCRIPTION NOW EXTENDED TO YOUTHS, 19

Eligible Age Is Lowered by One Year in Keeping With Prevailing Conditions

WILL UP FIGHTING POWER

Takes Effect in 1944: Reorganization of Educational Institutions Decided

Lowering of the military conscription age by one year to 19 for all males in Japan Proper was announced in a communique issued by the Board of Information at 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

The communique said:

"In keeping with the various prevailing circumstances, the military conscription age for 1944 has been decided to be lowered by one year."

The Government thus has arranged to have all the male youths of the land at the age of 19, full, receive examination for military service along with those of 20, full. An Imperial Ordinance providing "Provisional Special Case of Military Conscription Age" and a War Ministry Ordinance regulating "Special Case of Conscription Routine for 1944" will be promulgated in the Official Gazette dated December 24 to take effect at once.

Deferment Abolished

The Government had already abolished the system for deferring the conscription of men from the Daini Kokumin Hei List, extended the Daini Kokumin Hei Service to the age of 45, suspended the system for postponing the conscription of students, enforced a conscription system for Chosen and begun preparations for doing the same for Taiwan.

With the war now entering a decisive stage, it has been decided that a further revision should be made in the Military Service Law in order to assure an epochal increase in the fighting strength of the nation through the infusion of vigorous youth into the fighting services.

In the United States and Britain, young men at the age of 18 are called into military service, while in the Soviet Union youths at the age of 16 are recruited. Japan has maintained the conscription age of 20, first because her manpower resources have been ample, and second in order to provide for a situation like the present.

Now that the war has entered the decisive stage, Japan is going to put a victory-insuring military strength into the war in order to win ultimate triumph.

In the meantime, the zeal of the young people to enlist in military service has been growing stronger and stronger, and the number of those below the conscription age who volunteer for service is about three times the number before the outbreak of the China Affair.

Response to Patriotism

The present measure is said to have been taken in response to the burning patriotism of the young.

Under the present measure, those who will be 19 years old between December 1, 1943 and November 30, 1944 are eligible for conscription.

Regarding enlistment, due consideration has been paid to possible effects which the new measure will have on production and other important branches of national activity and arrangement has been made so that men at the age of 20 shall enter the barracks two or three months earlier than in the average year, followed by men at the age of 19.

It is requested that the military, Government and people, appreciating the spirit of the measure, expand redoubled effort for the augmenting of fighting strength and dash on toward the prosecution of the war.

The leaders in the industrial fields should see to it that production shall not suffer decreased efficiency through the current measure.

Young people at the newly-enforced conscription age, on their part, should train themselves, spiritually that physically, and above all, strive to equip themselves satisfactorily for military service, while doing their best in their respective fields of activity for productivity expansion.

Education Reorganized

Simultaneously with the lowering of the conscription age by one year, a fundamental reorganization of educational institutions has been decided on.

The outline of the reorganization was approved at the Cabinet meet-

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JAPANESE ARMY AIR FORCES BLAST 40 ENEMY WARPLANES IN RAID ON KUNMING AIR BASE

Smashing Surprise Attack Carried Out December 22

DEFENDERS HIT HARD

26 Fighter Planes Shot Down, 14 Other Craft Damaged And Set Ablaze

Continuing their smashing operations against vital Chungking air bases, Japanese Army Eagles on the afternoon of December 22 surprise-raided Kunming airfield, blasting 40 enemy planes in aerial combats and in attacks on the machines concentrated on the ground, Imperial Headquarters announced at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Of this total, 26 fighter planes were shot down from among about 40 planes which offered resistance, and six large-sized planes and eight small-sized planes were damaged and set ablaze.

The Imperial Headquarters' communique follows:

"Imperial Army Air Units in a combined formation of fighter and bomber planes surprise-raided in full force the enemy airfield at Kunming on the afternoon of December 22. Smashing the persistent interference of about 40 enemy fighters, they attacked a group of enemy planes concentrated on the ground. The war results known up to the present follows:

"Shot down:
26 fighter planes (eight unconfirmed).
"Damaged and set ablaze:
Six large-sized and eight small-sized planes, totaling 14 planes.
"Loss on our side:
Four planes self-blasted or not yet returned."

China Bases Blasted

Domei

AT AN XX BASE, December 22.—Units of the Imperial Army Air Force yesterday raided Hengyang and Changsha in Hunan Province and Kweilin in Kwangsi Province and, braving the terrific anti-aircraft gunfire from the ground, inflicted severe damage on the enemy military establishments at these bases.

That day a crack unit raided Kweilin several times since early morning and destroyed the airdrome and other military establishments by raining huge bombs upon the place. Another formation of bombers and fighters flew over Changsha, the enemy stronghlod in the 9th War Zone, and gutted the military establishments there. Still another unit attacked Hengyang and denuded the airdrome there by terrific bombing.

Kunming Heavily Raided

Domei

AN XX BASE, December 22.—A furious attack was conducted against the enemy air base at Kunming on the afternoon of December 18, when the Japanese Army Air Force attackers destroyed or set ablaze 17 large aircraft and shot down five fighters in an air battle, thus accounting for 22 enemy planes.

The sole blood-transfusion route remaining to the enemy has thus been paralyzed by the severe damag wrought to Kunming in the wake of the damage suffered at Tinsukia on December 13.

The Japanese airmen assigned to the attack proceeded in a large formation to the skies over the enemy airdrome. As they were flying in their course, they saw on the ground an array of Consolidated B-24's. Puffs of white smoke came up as the bombs were dropped. At this moment, more than a dozen P-40 fighters came challenging the Japanese to combat but they were no match for the skilled and seasoned airmen of our Army. One by one the enemy planes spiraled down dizzily. Having almost entirely destroyed the large enemy bombers below, the raiding force destroyed the runways and other installations with huge bombs.

Having achieved their mission, the Japanese airmen returned in a majestic formation to their home base. In this action the Japanese suffered a loss of three planes, which have not yet reported home. There was a plane which developed engine trouble and dive-bombed in readiness

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U.S. Told to Expect Enormous Casualties In Next Ninety Days

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—A certain high official of the United States Government is reported by the Associated Press under today's dateline to have declared that the United States armed forces must expect casualties equivalent to more than three times those they have already suffered since the outbreak of war within the next 90 days. This remark is considered to indicate that the anti-Axis camp, exasperated by the delay in their counter-offensive operations, is planning some large scale campaign in one or the other theaters of war.

WAVELL SIDETRACKS ALL UGLY PROBLEMS

Declares East Asia Offensive Only Possible After End of War in Europe

Domei

CANTON, December 23.—Carefully avoiding the question of granting autonomy to India and the feelings of the Indian National Congress, Field-Marshal Archibald P. Wavell, the new Viceroy of India, in a speech at the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce on December 20—the first since his assumption of the post—made public his administrative policy, reports the Chung Ying Jih Pao, a Chungking journal, according to Calcutta dispatches received here.

As was expected, the speech made no reference at all to the anti-British movement by the Congress Party, but dealt mainly with counter-measures against the food crisis and other acute economic problems in the country.

Concerning the granting of autonomy to India, Wavell studiously evaded the issue by saying, "We could not solve this problem by debating it now."

Concerning the future of the war, the Viceroy said:

"When the war in Europe terminates, we must start a general counter-offensive against East Asia, for only then will a large scale offensive be possible.

"India's responsibilities have increased greatly since the establishment of the headquarters for south-eastern Asia. India must be turned into a colossal land, sea and air base. With harbor, airfield, warehouse facilities still incomplete, however, India cannot fulfill that role just now. Optimism is unwarranted. Come what may, we must keep up our morale."

After emphasizing the importance and urgency of economic measures, Wavell said that the Indian Government would do all it could to curb inflation. Regarding the food crisis the Viceroy particularly requested the cooperation of the people, saying that the most drastic measures would be resorted to if necessary.

NIPPON FORCES KILL 4,486 CHINESE REDS

Many Trophies Also Seized in 5 Provinces

Domei

TSINAN, December 22.—Japanese Forces carrying out mopping-up operations against Chinese Communist troops infesting Hopeh, Shantung, Kiangsu, Honan and Anhuei Provinces during the period from October 6 to November 30, dealt heavy casualties to the enemy who abandoned:

4,486 dead bodies on the battlefield; 1,161 were taken prisoners; 254 military establishments, including arsenals and provision depots were destroyed and 143 small-sized vessels and barges were sunk.

War trophies captured included four trench mortars, 26 light machines, 2,957 rifles, 280 revolvers, five grenade throwers and 14,845 hand grenades.

P.I. MEDICAL PARLEY ENDS WITH SUCCESS

Dr. Sison Outlines 3 Outstanding Achievements Gained During Meeting

Domei

MANILA, December 22.—The three-day medical science conference commemorating the establishment of the Republic of the Philippines, was successfully brought to a close this morning following the last session held at the Normal School Auditorium here, where the remaining medical papers were read and discussed.

Following the termination of the session, Dr. Toono Sison, Director of the Philippine Hospital and chairman of the conference, named three outstanding achievements of the conference. He said firstly that the conference resulted in the dissemination of up-to-date scientific informations on cancer and tuberculosis.

Secondly, he said that "the conference is an actual demonstration of the close and wholehearted cooperation existing between medical circles in this country and the Nippon Army and Navy medical authorities."

Thirdly, the conference revealed the great interest of local authorities in taking active part in the manufacture of chemical substances in order to insure self-sufficiency and independence from foreign sources, Dr. Sison added.

In conclusion, he declared that the medical conference, just finished, is the biggest and the most successful of its kind ever held in this country, and that he hopes the Filipinos will have an opportunity to confer in the future with medical men from all over East Asia.

Full Efforts Of M.P.'S Urged By General Abe

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the people, they must stint no sacrifice that they make and overcome any hardship or ordeal which they may be called upon to endure. In the spirit of the officers and men on battlefield, the people behind the guns must give their best for the increased production of munitions and augmented output in foodstuffs.

Enemies Growing Desperate

"Despite the fact that the United States and Britain have made many strategic blunders and are suffering from the failure of their many plans, they are continuing their counter-offensive with mounting desperation. They have called conferences at Moscow, Cairo and Teheran in order to make a show of the unity of their camp but on every occasion they have merely betrayed their lack of international morality and shameless selfishness of their motives.

"On the other hand, we in Greater East Asia, have demonstrated by actual deeds the lofty aims animating us. The common welfare and prosperity for which we are steadily working serve a striking contrast to the utterly unscrupulous policy of robbery and exploitation being pursued by the United States and Britain.

"The measures to be presented to the Diet by the Government are all such as cannot be dispensed with in the present state of emergency. When it is considered that the discussions we are to undertake in the Diet have themselves a bearing on the issue of the war, we cannot but feel the importance of the task before us.

Utmost Speed Vital

"In such times as these all measures must be passed with the utmost expedition. It is hoped that the Government will clarify every point of the measures they submit and frankly express its views on each, so that the Diet may cooperate in full understanding of the measures the consent to which is sought. It is our desire as Diet members to see to it that the Government measures may be enforced in such a way that they will exercise the maximum effect."

The meeting was attended by 350 members of the Diet and members of the Cabinet who were formerly Diet members including, besides General Abe, Yonezo Maeda, chairman of the council of managers of the Association, Tsuneo Kanemitsu, chairman of the political research committee, Matajiro Koizumi, chairman of the Diet Members' Association, Agriculture and Commerce Minister Tatsunosuke Yamazaki and State Minister without Portfolio Tadao Oasa.

Yank Raiders Repulsed

Domei

HANOI, December 23.—Seven China-based American planes appeared over Laokai in northern French Indo-China on December 17, but were repulsed by the terrific barrage of the Japanese ground batteries. One enemy plane was shot down 60 kilometers southeast of Mengtzu, it was confirmed.

Acute Shortage of Paper in United States Presenting Problem to Munitions Plants

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—Revealing the acute shortage of paper throughout the United States, Newsweek in a recent issue commented on the scarcity of timber and pulp available for its manufacture. The periodical reported as follows:

"Quite aside from the shortage of paper for daily use the meager supply of wrapping paper, indispensable to the munitions industry, is presenting a serious problem. According to the War Production Board some 20,000 additional workers are needed in pulp factories and a further 60,000 for the production of timber in order to meet the demand."

In this connection, Donald Nelson, Chairman of the War Production Board announced a few days ago that the Government would cut down the supply of paper to newspaper and other printing establishments next year.

In view of the lack of paper the San Francisco News today said that no large advertisements for Christmas would be accepted in their 23rd and 24th December issues in order to economize on paper.

GERMANY PLANNING TO PUNISH RAIDERS

Schmidt Ired at Yanks' Terror Bombings of Bremen; Recalls Kharkov Trial

Domei

BERLIN, December 22.—With regard to the punishment of American and British fliers, who violated international law by carrying out blind bombings on Bremen on November 2, Dr. Paul Schmidt, Chief of the Press Department of the Reich Foreign Office, referred to the Kharkov Trial in the interview with foreign correspondents today and stated that proper measures should be taken in this connection. It is apparent, therefore, that German military authorities are pondering upon some practical measures in regard to the punishment to be dealt to the enemy terror raiders.

The fact that American airmen who were taken prisoner in Bremen wore jackets marked "Murder, Incorporated" must have aggravated the German people's animosity toward the Anglo-American fliers.

U.S., Britain Alarmed

Domei

LISBON, December 22.—The statement of Dr. Paul Schmidt, Chief of Press Department of the Reich Foreign Office, with regard to the Kharkov Trial caused a great sensation in the United States and England. An Associated Press dispatch from London called the statement by Dr. Schmidt as, "a threat of revenge on anti-Axis war prisoners."

United Press and Associated Press dispatches to New York relaying the press reports of neutral countries declared: "Both the Swedish and Swiss correspondents admitted that the influence of the Kharkov Trial would be great."

Conscription Now Extended To Youths, 19

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ing on Tuesday and announced at 3:30 p.m. Thursday along with a statement by the Minister of Education.

The reorganization, which affects universities, high schools and colleges, is aimed at:

1. A thoroughgoing reform in education with a view to increased efficiency;
2. Turning out of technical experts to the end of augmenting fighting strength;
3. Thoroughgoing enforcement of labor mobilization.
4. Promotion of spiritual science.

The present measure is an epochal one in the educational history of this country. It establishes an inseparable relation between education and military service and thus hitches education to the goal of enhancing fighting strength.

FOREIGN SERVICE COLLEGE PROPOSED BY PHILIPPINES

Minister Recto Recommends New Department in University of P.I.

Domei

MANILA, December 22.—In order to train men for service abroad, Claro M. Recto, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has recommended the creation of a College for Foreign Service and Public Administration in the University of the Philippines.

The proposed College will be divided into two sections, Department of Foreign Service and Department of Public Administration.

The first offers courses in diplomatic and consular service, and the second in local governmental administration.

The need for trained foreign service men has arisen for the first time as a result of the maintenance of international relations by the newly-established independent Republic of the Philippines.

U.S. Workers Lack Good Homes, Food

(Continued From Page 1)

overcrowded schoolrooms. "Children without studying have to play in places where the flies are crawing over their faces and where rats are running around," the magazine explained.

It continued, "Every downtown restaurant chair is filled with patient crowd waiting inside and a long line of standees extending far down the sidewalk, rain or shine. In one restaurant half a cantaloupe is 40 cents, coffee is 25 cents, while a hamburger patty for one with nothing else included is $1.10.

"In front of the five downtown movies there are long, pathetic queues of persons of all ages and social classes, desperate for a little diversion. "In front of ice stations, even more pitiful files of mothers are holding pans and newspapers hopefully, finally turning away with nothing or with a piece of ice so small it will not last a night."

The magazine declared, "Children are idle, restless, excited, undisciplined, and foot-loose; roaming the streets; hunting more excitement and finding it, as Mobile's delinquency rate soars." It warned; "It is a wild harvest we are going to reap, if we don't check this criminal wastage of childhood in all our big war centers."

It also added, "The recreation for war workers is another crucial need. There is nothing to do but to get drunk, no place for young couples or young men to go for clean entertainment, no swimming pools, and no city auditorium."

Collier's named a long list of cities with equally appalling conditions where foodstuffs, hospitalization and other problems present a serious situation. It said, "In Richmond, California, there were at least six instances where clusters of shacks were so horrible that the only possible solution would be to remove the occupants and immediately burn the shacks."

The magazine said that community hostility adds to the tragic living conditions where men are undernourished, badly clothed, appallingly housed, and morally "going to the dogs." It concluded, "This is the general situation among 7,000,000 workers in the six Southern States."

Japanese Army Airmen Blast 40 Foe Craft

(Continued From Page 1)

to self blast itself but the pilot held the stick to the last and at XX meters from the ground the engine miraculously righted itself, so that the airmen returned safely to their home base.

U.S. Prepares New Budget

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—The Washington Government's budget of $92,000,000,000 for next year which is to be presented by President Roosevelt to Congress at the beginning of 1944 shows a decrease of $10,000,000,000 from that of the 1943 fiscal year.

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END OF BRITISH RULE IN INDIA IS ORDAINED

Rash Behari Bose Assures Compatriots That 'Nothing Can Stop Us'

The British will be forced to quit India. History dictates it, we and our powerful Allies have sworn to it, and nothing can stop us from reaching our goal, declared Rash Behari Bose, Supreme Advisor to the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, in his stirring address to India from Radio Tokyo, Thursday.

India will never be fooled again, Mr. Bose emphasized, in way of ridiculing the enemy's feverish attempts to bluff the world by a series of conferences and high sounding, but useless phrases.

Field Marshal Archibald Wavell, he claimed, has been rightly chosen by the British as their last Viceroy, who is to prepare the glorious exit from India with equal skill and daring exhibited by him in his flight from East Asia.

The gist of Mr. Bose's address follows:

"Compatriots at home:

"Just 31 years ago today, that is, on December 23, 1912, a band of patriotic and daring youths dared to make an attempt on the life of the then British Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, who was proceeding to his Viceregal Residence at Delhi. Although the British Viceroy escaped with only a serious wound it was powerfully brought home to his Lordship that he and his like were not wanted in India, that although the British Raj seemed securely established with its seat at Delhi, there was really a seething volcano of unrest and hatred burning underneath ready to explode any moment.

"In planning a daring and revolutionary act of this nature, I and my colleagues were not motivated by any personal animosity to Hardinge as an individual Britisher, but as an agent and representative of that oppressive and tyrannous rule which had been ruthlessly grinding down the Indian people into ever increasing poverty and want. It was our intention merely to let the British Government and the world at large know that patriotic India refused to acknowledge His Britannic Majesty's rule over India.

"Today it is not a small band of patriotic, dreamy youths who have pitted themselves against Anglo-Saxon tyranny and oppression. Mighty and powerful nations, and vast masses of oppressed people have risen with a firm and invincible purpose to exterminate Anglo-American oppression from the face of the world. What was only a dream and a passionate ideal 31 years ago is today a powerful and undeniable reality.

"India today remains the last but tottering citadel of British might in Asia. It is a citadel besieged from within and without, and the enemy who has taken shelter therein has no other alternative than to surrender, however stubbornly and desperately he may fight to maintain his hold on India. Moreover, the enemy knows that he must vacate this stronghold, sooner or later, even as he had to vacate Malaya and Burma and other areas in East Asia.

"Today an uncontrollable nation-wide revolt has thoroughly shaken down the foundations of British rule, and a strong powerful blow from without will cause it to come reeling down in a vast ruin.

"In 1912, we were passionately craving for weapons, but had no means of acquiring them, but today our Army of Azad Hind has that dream of the Revolutionaries of 1912 amply fulfilled. The uncompromising hatred against the British manifested throughout the country has risen to a white heat, and will compel the British to make their exit from Delhi, and their next halting point will be outside the borders of India.

"Field-Marshal Archibald Wavell, who managed to escape alive from East Asia, has rightly been chosen by the British as their last Viceroy, who is to prepare that glorious exit from India with 'equal skill and daring' exhibited by him in East Asia.

"Fellow countrymen, I am confident that whatever may be the plots and schemes which the enemy devise in their desperation, the laws of history dictate that they shall be foiled. Whatever sweet words Prime Minister Churchill may utter, my countrymen today know too well that there is nothing but poison behind those words. As far as India is concerned I am confident that there will be no repetition of the follies of 1914-18.

"Wherever our enemies may meet, be it Cairo or Teheran, and whatever new phrases they may employ, India can never more be fooled by them.

"Compatriots, the inexorable laws of history leave no alternative for the enemy this time than to quit India. India has willed it, history dictates it, and we and our powerful Allies have sworn to it, and nothing can stop us from reaching our goal.

Bande Mataram."

His Majesty Donates To Protection Society Of Mothers, Children

His Majesty the Emperor on Thursday was gracious enough to donate a sum of money out of the Privy Purse for the Dai Nippon Mothers and Children Protection Society, it was announced. This Society was founded in 1934 on the Imperial endowment granted in connection with the birth of His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince. The benevolent Imperial sanction was made out of the Imperial solicitude to encourage the enterprises undertaken by the Society. Welfare Minister Chikahiko Koizumi proceeded to the Imperial Household Department at 10 a.m. Thursday and respectfully received the money from Imperial Household Minister Tsuneo Matsudaira. The Welfare Minister and Count Yorinaga Matsudaira, president of the Society, issued statements on this gracious Imperial donation.

TO AID INTERNED KIDDIES

Army Authorities in S. Borneo Preparing X'mas Gifts

Domei

BANJERMASIN, December 22.—Japanese military authorities in South Borneo are busily engaged in preparing Christmas gifts consisting of toys, shoes, stockings and others to be sent to children of enemy countries now in internment camps.

The military authorities are establishing additional sports and recreational facilities for these children in full consideration of their health and welfare.

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U.S. MACHINATIONS DISCLOSED BY ENVOY

Yanks Said Busy Wooing King By Presenting Him With Planes, Other Goods

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(Special to the Nippon Times)

HARBIN, December 20.—Disclosing the American machinations in minor neutral countries with particular reference to Afghanistan, Toshio Katsube, Second Secretary to the Japanese Legation in Afghanistan who stopped at Harbin on his way to Japan, declared that the United States was busily wooing King Mohammed Zahir Shah by presenting him with airplanes and other gifts.

Last week Mr. Katsube, accompanied by his family, arrived at Harbin on board the International Train. While in the city he revealed the complicated situation of Afghanistan in relation to the world war. His story follows:

"My family and I left Kabul, capital of Afghanistan on November 18, crossed the Soviet-Afghan border on the 24th of the same month and reached Tashkend. Then we travelled by the Trans-Siberian Railway for nearly a month touching at Novo-Sibirsk and Chita before reaching here.

"Afghanistan is stricly adhering to the policy of neutrality and there is no change in the people's attitude toward the Japanese residents there. The country is undoubtedly placed in an extremely delicate position, facing Iran on the west and India on the east—both under the influence of the British—and the Soviet Union on the north. Within the country the people are enjoying comparative peace and prosperity due to the efficient government's administrative policy. The fact that the King and Premier Sardar Mohammad Hashim Khan are related in blood decidedly contributes to the success of the administration.

"The Afghan people are deeply concerned over the war situation in East Asia. They were astounded at the results scored by the Japanese Forces at the outset of the war. The Afghan press publishes the announcements of the Imperial Headquarters without distortion. However, it is needless to say that the enemy's propaganda organs are active in spreading lies and in the coloring of war news. The Afghans on the whole realize Japan's military might.

"In Iran the Soviet Union, Britain and the United States station their respective troops. Lately America has been stretching her greedy tentacles to Afghanistan by offering of airplanes and other gifts to the King.

"The Afghans are greatly interested in the Indian situation because, being Mohammedans, they cannot remain indifferent to the Indian Independence movement which involves the Mohammedans in India. They are closely watching the further moves of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the two great Indian leaders. The Afghans regard the participation of the Hindus and the cooperation of the Mohammedans in the independence movement as two separate items.

"The British, taking advantage of the two opposing factors in the independence movement are resorting to their centuries old policy of divide and rule when handling the Indian issue. British intrigue in India consequently bears close watching."

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Dalton Says We Want to Be Heard in British, Anti-Axis Counsels

Domei

LISBON, December 21.—Australia and New Zealand demand to be heard in the counsels of the British Commonwealth and anti-Axis nations as "a right and not merely a privilege." Thus declared Thomas George Dalton, newly appointed Australian High Commissioner to New Zealand at Wellington on Tuesday, at the State luncheon held in honor of his arrival, according to a dispatch from Wellington.

Dalton emphasized that the two countries had "played a full part in the war, shouldered burdens eagerly and had not faltered in the darkest hours."

Continuing, he said that Australia earnestly desired to be heard in the anti-Axis nations' consultations, particularly concerning security and their future status in the Pacific.

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NIPPON SCIENTISTS URGED TO UP OUTPUT

Improved Technique Must Realize Quantity as Well as Quality, Says Nakahara

Exhorting Japanese scientists to accelerate the production of arms in view of the fact that science plays a vital role in modern warfare, Lieutenant-Colonel Shigetoshi Nakahara, member of the Military Affairs Bureau of the War Ministry, pointed out the superiority of Japanese aircraft compared to those produced in the United States and urged the scientists to manufacture in larger numbers to beat the enemy in quantity as well as in quality.

Lieutenant-Colonel Nakahara's statement in substance follows:

"The unparalleled exploits being daily achieved in the Pacific can be partly ascribed to scientific activities. Undoubtedly the development of scientific technique during the last two years has greatly contributed toward the successful prosecution of the war. At the outset of the War of Greater East Asia, scientific technique in Japan was modelled after the style of the western technique, but with the elapse of two years Japan has developed a technique all its own superior to the western. The enemy countries, realizing that they cannot catch up with Japan in this direction as well as in actual operations, have begun to resort to desperate measures by paying enormous toll of lives.

"Airplanes are built with hundreds of thousands of small accessories. For example, in order to construct a plane worth ¥500,000 some 500,000 rivets and numerous other things are needed. Moreover, airplanes must be equipped with machine guns, ammunition, bombs, radio-locators, telegraphic apparatus, optical instruments, cameras and others. In order to manufacture all these, iron, aluminum and other raw materials besides benzine, oil and fuel are absolutely necessary. Thus, it is obvious that various branches of science must be fully mobilized to build aircraft.

"In face of countless obstacles and setbacks, Japanese scientists have successfully carried on scientific warfare. Getting rid of western scientific technique they have acquired a purely Asiatic technique within the short period of two years.

"It is not too hasty to conclude that the success of modern warfare greatly hinges on scientific activities and superior technique. More arms of superior quality must be produced in order to bring the war to a victorious end. The rapid development of science in Japan has driven the enemy to extreme despondency during the last two years, and in the third year of the war Japan must terrify the enemy by producing more arms of better quality.

"America may bombastically declare that it is still ahead in mass production and that due to numerical superiority in machines it can push its drive forward. America may ignore its enormous toll of human lives as well as of machines and repeat futile moves in a frantic attempt to smash Japan before the latter strengths itself. Our enemy may belittle Japan's fighting power, being deluded with the mistaken idea of Japan's scientific strength. America may harbor a fool's dream to bomb the Japanese mainland by means of building superior bombers which can fly at an extrememly high altitude or to blast Japanese vessels which form the life line of Japan.

Japanese Technique Superior

"The present war is a war of giants fighting against giants with a aircraft as the head and underseacraft for the feet. America may slight Japan's mighty force saying that although Japan has solidly constructed the foundation for Greater East Asia it has not yet developed the necessary raw materials. However, America will soon find out her mistake.

"By resorting to superior scientific knowledge, Japan successfully invented a special kind of copper and aluminum as well as high quality oil. War materials being now fully utilized in producing arms, Japan is at present certainly competing with America in quality. The difference in quantity is also being daily lessened.

"The construction of arms, particularly of aircraft requires a wide range of scientific technique. Aircraft can be likened to a moth, because the latter remains as a chrysalis for a long time but once it grows into a moth, its life is very short. As to aircraft, enormous amount of effort and time are needed before an efficient plane can be built. When a plane moves out into action, it can not long remain undamaged. In pre-war days aircraft was mostly bought in America and Britain and brought to Japan in parts, while some were imported already assembled. At present planes are constructed in Japan, every small part being constructed in the country.

"A long period of anxiety, patience and worry had to be endured by scientists before Japanese made bomber and fighter planes, and aircraft batteries, radio locators and other arms made their debut. More arms of better quality will be produced in future.

"As to quantity, a larger amount must be produced in the third year and we are confident that Japan can double or treble its productive capacity. America may exaggerate by propagating that the automobile manufacturing factory which previously built several million automobiles annually is able to construct some ten thousand aircraft monthly. Before the war most of the machines used in building aircraft and other arms were imported, but self-sufficiency in machines has been almost realized. However, further efforts are required in order to expand Japan's productivity. In parallel with the improvement in quality, quantity must be increased to realize the successful conclusion of the present war.

"Victory in scientific warfare can only be achieved through the increased production of arms of superior quality. The responsibility for increased production should be shouldered not only by scientists but by every one on the home front as well.

"In the third year of the war, let us exert our utmost to exterminate our foe. Japan who occupies an invincible position in East Asia can easily compete with the enemy in richness of raw materials. Scientific warfare must be carried out with vigor. Japan who is spiritually fortified should be well able to beat the enemy in actual fighting. The role to be played by science in the third year is of paramount importance.

Nippon Submarines Strike Terror Into Enemy Ships on Seven Seas

Our Undersea Craft Bolster Naval Operations by Sinking Anti-Axis Vessels, Cutting Their Sea Lanes and Bombarding Land Bases

By HOGARAKA HIRATE
Of the Navy Press Corps

AT AN X X BASE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.—Ever since Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor at the outset of the current war, the Imperial Japanese Submarine Flotillas have been active not only in Pacific waters, but in the Indian Ocean as well as off the Arabian and African coasts. In the Atlantic our Submarine units have been successfully cooperating with German underseacraft in dealing death blows to enemy ships.

While aboard one of these I was able to experience the hardships and privations daily endured by the crew of a submarine. To their courage and superb skill I can but pay my highest respect and admiration.

Secrecy is the key to successful submarine operations. Cruising beneath the water unseen, underseacraft strikes terror into enemy naval forces. In the vastness of the Pacific or the Indian Ocean, a submarine is as small and insignificant as a needle point, but once it goes into action, it can send any large enemy vessel to a watery grave.

It requires more skill and vigilance to operate in the Pacific than in the Atlantic where sea traffic is more dense. Because of the limitless expanse of the Pacific, more underseacraft and more trained men are vitally necessary to bolster submarine warfare.

Since the commencement of the war, Japanese submarines have inflicted heavy blows on the enemy forces through the coordination of aircraft, underseacraft, surface vessels and landing forces as well as garrison forces. This perfect teamwork is the essense of the invincible might of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Inconspicuous but none the less brilliant is the work of the submarines as witness the sinking of the Lexington and Yorktown at the outset of the war and the damaging of three aircraft carriers, two battleships and one A-class cruiser in Solomons waters since August last year.

The submarine which I boarded navigated southward under the surface heading for the Solomons where the enemy had constructed bases. The submarine fiercely bombarded the enemy's airfield on Espiritu Santo Island, the largest in the New Hebrides group. The consternation of the enemy forces there was amply manifested through the Sidney radio announcing the losses suffered as the result of a Japanese submarine bombardment.

Our submarine was counter-attacked by enemy seaplanes and destroyers but the crew remained calm and self composed, truly demonstrating the spirit of Japanese seamen.

Every night the submarine had to dive below the surface to evade the persistent pursuit of enemy vessels. Every time I heard explosions I was filled with horror but the gallant craft returned safely to her base due to the superb technique and skilful handling by the crew. With the intensification of the war the mission of Japanese Submarine Units in cutting enemy's sea lanes, destroying industrial facilities and in shattering his morale, will become heavier.

The submarine which I boarded, struck terror into the enemy by attacking Santa Barbara, Vancouver and Astoria on the American west coast as well as on the Australian eastern coast. The submarine sank many anti-Axis transports in Australian waters. By expanding its field of operations, our underseacraft have become active in the Arabian, African and Atlantic waters.

In X month, in the Indian Ocean, the submarine in question cut off the enemy's communication route and endangered his transportation. In the Indian Ocean, which is devoid of "stepping stones," the enemy naval forces have not been able to take up the challenge of Japanese submarines. With the enemy's activities becoming livelier in the Pacific due to the crisis in India as well as to the change in the European war situation much can be expected of Japanese submarines in the future.

Japanese Submarine Forces have sunk X X enemy vessels since this summer and are now trapping loaded enemy transports, thus tightly defending Greater East Asia as well as cooperating in the German operations. In modern warfare, while aircraft plays the most vital role, submarines play their part on the outer defense line.

The Submarine Forces which have scored overwhelming victories during the last two months, require men of loyal spirit, technically trained, and good physique. The marvelous feats accomplished by the submarine crew under trying conditions and countless obstacles, will help lay the foundation for Greater East Asia.

U.S. COMMISSIONS TULAGI

Small Aircraft Carriers Built in Kaiser Shipyards

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 21.—The small aircraft carrier Tulagi, constructed in the Kaiser Shipbuilding Yards was commissioned for service today, according to a dispatch from Astoria, Oregon.

The announcement of the commissioning of the Tulagi has been received here with considerable interest as heretofore only the launching of newly-constructed ships were officially announced, whereas the commissioning of these ships were kept absolutely secret.

INDO-CHINA ESTABLISHES VALUATION COMMISSION

Set Up in 5 Cities to Evaluate Commercial Firms and Requisitioned Facilities

Domei

HANOI, December 20.—The Government-General of French Indo-China today issued the Governor-General's decree providing the establishment of a Commission Speciale de Valuations Pour des Establishments Commerciale in principal parts of French Indo-China, including Tonkin, Annam, Laos, Cochin China and Cambodia.

It is understood that the proposed Commission is tasked with the valuation of commercial establishments, as well as the decision on the amount of compensations for commercial facilities in case it is requisitioned by the Government for military purposes.

It is generally believed that the present step will greatly facilitate requisitioning of private property for military purposes, resulting in a marked bolstering of French Indo-China's fighting strength.

JAVA WOMEN'S DAY SET

Big Rallies to Be Held Every December 22

Domei

DJAKARTA, December 21.—Twenty-five million Indonesian women throughout Java will observe "Women's Day" annually on December 22. This decision was made by the women's section of the Poetera movement with the view of calling forth all-out cooperation of women for the successful consummation of the War of Greater East Asia.

The first "Women's Day" will be celebrated by mass rallies in Djakarta and in other main cities, under the auspices of the women's section of the Poetera movement. Ir Soekarno, member of the Central Council and leader of the movement, is expected to address the Djakarta rally.

December 22 was chosen as "Women's Day" in commemoration of the first meeting of the Indonesian Women's Congress, which was held on December 22, 1928.

FUJIWARA TO STAGE BEETHOVEN'S OPERA

To Mark 10th Anniversary of Company With Presentation Of Fidelio

A rare pleasure awaits music lovers of the capital, for on December 27 and 28 the Fujiwara Opera Company will present Beethoven's grand opera Fidelio, at the Kabuki Theater, Kyobashi.

The presentation of Fidelio will mark for the Fujiwara Opera Company its tenth anniversary, a decade during which every effort has been made on the part of Yoshie Fujiwara, world-famous tenor and founder of the company, to give to music circles of Japan the best that the realm of opera offers.

During these ten years, 16 different operas have been staged by the company, representative of the best works of Germany, Italy, France and Japan.

"I'm extremely happy in being able to announce the presentation of Fidelio," Mr. Fujiwara remarked. "Why? Because it's one of the most difficult of grand operas, and one not often staged even in Europe, the home of the opera. Now I have the satisfaction of knowing that Japan has the talent necessary for such a production.

"But the main reason for my elation is this," he continued, "that such a production is possible today. Here we are in the midst of the biggest struggle the world has ever known, but aside from a few privations in the way of luxuries, life here continues the same as usual. We are able to study and rehearse and stage large-scale operas and concerts and so on, with absolutely no change from pre-war days. I wonder who of our enemies can say the same of conditions in their own countries?"

"As we wanted to have this coming performance as perfect as possible, we have been rehearsing since summer," he explained. "Practising and rehearsing from 9 till 4 every day does require quite a bit of energy," he conceded with a smile

"I wish," he went on rather sadly, "that those who sometimes criticize our performances rather harshly would take this fact into consideration, that as far as the field of opera is concerned Japan is still in her childhood. Opera was introduced into Japan a bare 25 or so years ago, and in so short a time I think we've done wonders. Naturally there is still much room for improvement, but that will come as we gain more experience."

This spring the Company staged a Japanese opera composed by Ryutaro Hirota—Nishiura no Kami—revolving around the Ainu tribe in the northernmost part of Japan. In April next year Mr. Fujiwara plans to stage "Enemy Surrender" written by Shiro Fukai. This has as its theme the Mongol Invasion in the 13th century, when in one glorious night of battle Japan scattered her invading foes.

The selection of Fidelio was made as the result of the acclaim which the presentation of Wagner's Lohengrin won last year, Mr. Fujiwa explained.

"We gave five extra performances," he said. "It was our first attempt at German grand opera. The two German works which we presented some time ago were light operas."

"I've made 12 trips around the world," was Mr. Fujiwara's reply, when comment was made on his past foreign concert tours. "I've visited practically all countries except Australia and New Zealand. I was twice in South America."

Mr. Fujiwara's debut in the field of opera was made in Paris in 1932 when he sang the role of Rudolf in Puccini's 'La Boheme.'

For his efforts on behalf of Italian music in Japan, Mr. Fujiwara was presented with the Chevalier Medal by Mussolini in 1936. Just recently he was again the recipient of a medal, this time from the King of Cambodia for his contribution in the field of French music in Japan.

"Now that our company has progressed this far," Mr. Fujiwara said as the luncheon drew to a close, "it is my hope that one day in the near future we will have an opportunity of going abroad and presenting our repertoire to our neighbors on the Continent and the Southern Regions. That's my great ambition."

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Fuehrer's Headquarters

December 22

On the northern Crimean front a Soviet batallion was encircled and wiped out.

Fierce enemy attacks against the Nikopol bridgehead and on the front southwest of Dniepropetrovsk were unsuccessful. Southeast of Kirovograd our troops made further headway. Some 1,300 prisoners, 274 tanks, and 306 guns of all varieties were taken and numerous other weapons and booty were captured or destroyed in the period between December 5th to 21st in one corps sector alone.

In the area northeast of Zhitomir our troops warded off strong enemy counter-attacks knocking out 37 Soviet tanks.

Northwest of Retchitsa we attacked over difficult ground and closed a gap in our front after having overcome tough enemy resistance. In the course of this fighting the bulk of an enemy rifleguard's division was smashed. Numerous prisoners and considerable booty were captured.

In the area north and east of Vitebak repeated enemy attempts to break through were foiled in heavy fluctuating fighting. Local dents were either ironed out or sealed off. Fighting is still going on at isolated points of the breaks. In this sector the Soviets lost 20 tanks.

Northwest of Nevel, too, heavy attacks were rolled back. Shocktroop activity on both sides is reported from the extreme north. Soviet scouting thrusts were foiled with severe losses to the enemy.

In southern Italy enemy attacks on the Adriatic coast again diminished in intensity. Minor thrusts in the sector of Ortona were repulsed. On the remaining sectors the day was quiet except for some abortive enemy shocktroop activity.

In the waters off Sicily German bombers heavily damaged two enemy freighters by bomb hits. Lone enemy planes last night dropped bombs on western Germany. German planes on the night preceding December 22 carried out nuisance raids against southeastern England.

Indian Training Centers Set

Domei

KALANG JOHORE, December 21.—At a public meeting held by Indian residents here, it was decided to establish three part-time training centers for local Indians. The training centers will provide preparatory military training for all able-bodied Indians during their leisure hours.

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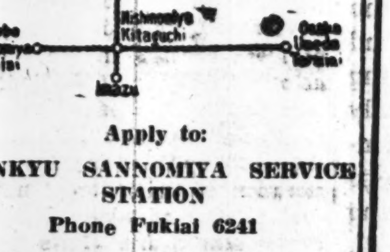

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BURMESE RESOLVED TO FIGHT FOR ASIA

Rigorous Training Being Given To Nation's Youths, Says Defense Minister

By Arrangement with the Asahi
(Special to the Nippon Times)

RANGOON, December 20.—"We Burmese are firmly resolved to fight to the last man for the construction of Greater East Asia!" Thus did Major-General Thakin Aung San, Burmese Minister of Defense, express himself when interviewed. Referring to the vigorous training now being given to Burmese youth who are eagerly joining the colors, Major-General Thakin Aung San went on to say:

"Once at the Cadets School at Mingaladon, I spoke of the brave Burmese soldiers of old who endured many hardships, sleeping on the grass under the open sky when there were no beds or houses available. Likewise the Burmese soldiers of today must fight with a strong resolution for the construction of Greater East Asia. I cannot say with confidence that the officers of the Burmese Army are very efficient yet, for our army has only recently been established. However, I am doing my utmost to train them in the true Asiatic spirit. We permit them to use only the Burmese or the Japanese language. They also undergo special training to enable them to cope with the peculiar topography of Burma with its mountains and thick forests.

"As for cooperation with the Japanese Forces, I am glad to say that the Burmese troops are already working in close collaboration with the Imperial troops in the XX district.

"In 1940 when I visited India, I met Subhas Chandra Bose. Also during the establishment of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, I spent several days with him. Therefore, I look upon him as an old acquaintance.

"Both Burma and India have for many years suffered under the tyranny of the British government. While Burma has already become independent India is still struggling for freedom. The suffering of India, therefore is also the suffering of Burma. Were I the Commander of the Burmese Army and not the Burmese Minister of Defense, I would at once lead my men into India to join the fighting forces of Mr. Bose.

"The Burmese youth of today is eager to join the colors. Each day my desk is flooded with applications for military service. This deep patriotism of the youth of Burma, gives me great satisfaction."

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Published by The Nippon Times, Ltd.
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TOKYO, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1943

The New Conscription Age

The Government's announcement that the conscription age is to be lowered by one year, from 20 to 19, comes as no surprise. In view of the colossal scale of the fighting now raging in every part of the world, the change is a natural and not unexpected one. The surprise is that Japan has not found it necessary to take this step until now. The move is to be hailed not only because thousands more of strong, hard-fighting youths will be enrolled in the armed forces of the nation, thus to make still more solid and formidable the already powerfully set up fighting structure of Japan, but because it serves to point out once again that Japan's fighting manpower reserves are far more abundant than those of any other nation now in the war.

This first age-lowering since the universal conscription system was first proclaimed in the Empire of Japan has come more than two years after the start of the War of Greater East Asia and more than six years after the outbreak of the China Affair. What other nation now embroiled in this world upheaval has been fighting until now with a normal, peacetime conscription age limit, without any change having been effected, with only men over 20 years of age called to serve in its armed forces!

The United States, the instigator of this world conflict and our principal enemy, furnishes a striking example. There, all males between the ages of 18 and 65 have been forced to register for possible military duty and those between 18 and 45 have been made liable for active service. In Britain, all those between the ages of 18 and 51 have already been drafted. In Germany, the conscription age starts at 18 and ends at 45. And in Australia, all men between 18 and 55 have been put into uniform to serve to defend that nation.

The conscription age as well as all other conditions indicate clearly that only the thin top layer of Japan's vast and deep reservoir of fighting power is being used in the present fighting. Until a few months ago, all students in the middle of their studies were given deferment from military service. Only after two years of the War of Greater East Asia and six years of the China Affair was this deferment privilege laid aside for the time being. And this was done not because of any urgent need for more men but in order to turn some of the potential fighting power in readiness for developments to come.

The age-lowering is a similar move. In ages past, young samurai were deemed to have attained their manhood when they reached the age of 14. From 14 on they were men, qualified to fight with full armor and equipment on the battlefields. Though social conditions today are different, it still remains true that a Japanese youth in the upper grades of middle school, armed and equipped for battle, will be just as effective in fighting as a similarly armed college man elsewhere. Now, with the war growing still more stupendous in scale and with the enemy repeatedly hurling its massed forces against the outer defenses of the Empire, the step the Government has decided to take is a natural and realistic one.

The latest step, however, is not a drastic one. Only one year has been taken off the normal, peacetime draft age and the difference between 19 and 20 is not great. What is most striking is that with the war now apparently raging at the height of its fury, Japan's fighting power on the field is so sufficient that only a minute part of its tremendously huge reserve manpower resources needs to be tapped. It is obvious that against such power, the best efforts of the enemy can never be of any avail.

Bleeding America White

Bitter complaints are being heard in the United States over the heavy losses suffered by the American forces in their reckless Gilbert Islands landing operations, an Inquiry Committee having actually been appointed in Congress already in this connection. Lieutenant-General Alexander Vandegrift, the newly appointed Commander of the United States Marines, in a letter addressed to the Chairman of this Committee on December 17, stated, after admitting the fact of heavy losses complained of, that there is, after all, no royal road to Tokyo and that it is therefore necessary to acquaint the American public with this truth. Concerning the heavy losses suffered in the Tarawa Island landing operations, he declared that no one regretted them more deeply than the United States Marine Corps itself. In any case, there is no impugning the fact that America is being bled white by her mounting personnel losses.

Another profuse amount of bleeding was exacted recently from the American forces who attempted landing in the vicinity of Cape Merkus on and after the morning of December 15. In these operations, the enemy was subjected to heavy air bombings and artillery bombardments by Imperial Navy planes and the Japanese garrison, with the result that 90 per cent of all the enemy vessels and forces employed in this venture were wiped out of existence.

The results achieved by the Imperial Forces in these operations were really splendid. As announced by the Imperial Headquarters, the enemy vessels sunk comprised one large transport, four small transports, more than five special transports, one tug-boat, five large landing vessels and more than fifty other landing ships, while those badly damaged consisted of one large cruiser, two special transports, one tug-boat, three large landing vessels and a large number of smaller landing craft. Besides, thirty-four enemy planes were shot down.

Inasmuch as the enemy transports and landing vessels sunk or damaged were all laden with troops to capacity, the personnel losses of the enemy were tremendous, and once again the enemy learned to his cost what it is to embark on a reckless counter-offensive in the face of the most telling Japanese resistance. The poor Americans at home are being kept in the dark by their wily authorities about this appalling loss of life.

The United States has mobilized 10,000,000 troops already, and the mobilization of another 2,000,000 is considered imperative. The sources of supply are, however, so dried up that the American authorities are taxing their brains as to how to raise the necessary number. They presumably intend to draw upon the youths as young as 18 years of age besides drafting those who had been fathers prior to the outbreak of the war in order to recruit the number requisite to make good the depleted ranks, but in view of the strong opposition which their plan is provoking in many quarters, it is doubtful whether it will be carried out successfully.

That the sources of manpower supply are well-nigh exhausted is casting a decided gloom over the future of America's counter-offensive against Japan. The statement made by H. V. Kaltenborn, the noted American radio commentator, at San Francisco on December 17 truthfully reflects the war weariness and war frightfulness which are steadily growing on the American mind. He frankly admitted the mistake of his former prophesy that the war with Japan would end by 1945, saying that the prospects are much more gloomy and that the American marines who are fighting on the Pacific front have a pessimistic slogan, "Golden Gate in 1948."

Disabused of their former fallacious idea of an easy conquest of Japan, the Americans are being awakened to the grim reality of the situation, so much so that they apprehend that the year 1948 will find them defending San Francisco's Golden Gate desperately against the Japanese Forces. Such a contingency as they apprehend will certainly arise much earlier, if America's rate of bleeding goes on increasing, as it most probably will.

A Year Ago Today

December 24, 1942

In a series of bombing attacks on British military bases in East India, the Imperial Army Air Force between December 21 and today destroyed 13 enemy planes and shot down or damaged 10 others which challenged the Japanese planes.

* * *

Five representatives of the Badoei tribe which, determined not to come under the rule of the Dutch, never visited Batavia, appeared voluntarily in new Djakarta and called at the administration office to pledge the tribe's wholehearted cooperation with the Japanese Military Authorities.

* * *

Declaring that Christmas this year is a "grim Christmas, not a merry Christmas," Tomokazu Hori, Spokesman of the Board of Information, in a comment made on Christmas Eve, said that only by eliminating the selfish American and British ambition of world domination can the Christian people of the world celebrate a "truly merry Christmas,"

Greater East Asia's Total War

Expulsion of Anglo-American Influences Will Result In the Establishment of a New Order

By IWAO MITSUDA
(From the Chuo Koron)

Part I

There is now not the shadow of a doubt as to the object of the War of Greater East Asia: first, to drive out the Anglo-American influences from every corner of East Asia, and second, to establish a new order therein through the perfect combination of the peoples comprising this territory. Events of great importance have happened one after another during the past two years since the outbreak of the conflict, among which we may enumerate the following: China's participation in the war, Japan's adoption of her new China policy, the independence of Burma, the participation in administration by the people of Java, the independence of the Philippines, the establishment of a Provisional Government of Free India, the revision of the conclusion of a treaty of alliance between Japan and China, and the convocation of the Assembly of Greater East-Asiatic Nations in Tokyo. At the last named event the Greater East Asiatic Declaration which is the great constitution of East Asia clarifying the object of the present war was promulgated.

Frankly speaking, however, the world significance of the present war as a modern transcendent conflict and the correspondent substance of the proposed Greater East Asiatic new order not yet been clarified sufficiently. Inasmuch as the supreme duty thrust upon us today is to prosecute the war to its final termination, its world significance must be made clear beyond any doubt. This is necessary also for elevating the fighting spirit of the billion souls comprising Greater East Asia and for soliciting their positive collaboration in the present program of construction.

War Outbreak Not Abrupt

The fact should be realized once and for all that the War of Greater East Asia did not break out abruptly. This will be clear to those who have an insight into the movements of the world, the fate of Asia, and the intentions and endeavors of Japan during the past 100 years. It was in 1840 that, after completing its invasion of India in the first half of the last century, Britain forced the Opium War upon China. It was the thinking leaders of Japan at that time that grasped the impending crisis of Asia in their intuitive moral consciousness. Shinen Sato, hearing of the Opium War, wrote a book urging an alliance of Japan and China for the purpose of driving out the British power from Asia. Yoshida Shoin and Hashimoto Sanai also aspired the expulsion of British aggression through a unity of all Asiatic races. Others like Fujita Yukoku, his son Fujita Toko, Sakuma Shozan, Hirano Kuniomi, Yokoi Shonan, Maki Izumi, Saigo Nanshu, and the like also entertained a deep concern for the fate of the Asiatic Continent. This, coupled with their intense patriotism and national consciousness, led them to bring about the restoration of the Imperial rule and thereby unify the whole country. Thus, the Imperial Restoration of Meiji was inevitably bound up with the fate of the Asiatic Continent in addition to its realization of the ancient regime. The old idea that the Meiji Restoration was a mere domestic reform should be abandoned in the new-born consciousness of Greater East Asia.

Speech Highly Significant

The recent speech made by President Wan Ching-wei of China on the occasion of the Assembly of Greater East-Asiatic Nations is full of significance. Laying stress on the importance of "the purging of existing idea" as the main policy of his Government, he said: "The purging of ideas consists in the thoroughgoing eradication of the individualistic utilitarian idea of the Anglo-Saxon nations, their replacement by the moral spirit of the East, the restoration of the inherent nature of the Asiatics through their Asiatic consciousness, and efforts for creating mutual prosperity for the Asiatic nations through their united purposes."

We can certainly tell not only to the people of China but to those of all other peoples of Greater East Asia that at no time did Japan carry out any foreign policy from imperialistic motives. There may have been cases of selfish economic exploitations or acquisitions by some Japanese individuals or firms in foreign territories, but their actions never received the sanction of the Japanese States and in fact such policies were against the will of the nation. External actions taken by our nation were the expressions of its moral ideas and were totally at variance with any imperialistic design. Japan fought two foreign wars during the Meiji Era, first against China and secondly with Russia, not because of her imperialistic ambitions, nor even for her national interests alone. Japan's real intentions in waging these two foreign wars would become clear, if one should consider what would have been the result in Asia, had Japan not dared to wage them. It is unquestionably clear that under such circumstances, Chosen, Manchuria and a greater portion of China would have fallen a prey to the Anglo-American aggression, and indeed the whole of Asia would have become a second India—an Anglo-Saxon possession. Had not Japan stood firm and undaunted at these stupendous moments during the Meiji years, there would have been no independent Asia existing today.

Is Single Family

Greater East Asia has already become a single family. Moreover, since its fundamental spirit consists in mutual existence and prosperity and reciprocal friendship, it is clear that the formerly international legal conceptions of independent States and the principle of the inviolability of national boundaries should undergo modifications in their character. These old international legal conceptions and principles are now only an absolete formality which was the means of maintaining the Anglo-American old order of the world. Here, too, is a realistic East Asian demand for transcending modern times.

In this connection the following words of Prime Minister Dr. Ba Maw of Burma at the Assembly of Greater East-Asiatic Nations are of special significance and of useful suggestion:

"It is absolutely necessary to establish a spiritual unity of all the peoples of Greater East Asia which shall be based upon the idea that East Asia is a single family. They should have a super-nationalism over and above the nationalism of their single States. They should visualize the boundary lines of the Greater East Asia Region beyond their respective national boundaries."

It is only too natural that the Joint Declaration of the Assembly of the Greater East Asiatic Nations which is a landmark of Greater East Asia should have included the following: "The nations of Greater East Asia shall maintain the stability of Greater East Asia and establish the new order of mutual existence and prosperity based upon moral principles. . . . . . They should mutually respect their autonomous independence, bring about their mutual friendship, and maintain the general harmony of Greater East Asia."

Radically Different

What should be noted in this connection is the fact that the basic significance of the War of Greater East Asia and our economic construction program in East Asia does note lie in a re-orientation of modern times but rather in the conquest of modern times. For this reason the word "autonomous independence" should be held radically different in nature from the meaning attached to it by the Anglo-American conception of international law. Autonomous independence as conceived by us is not an object by itself but a means of the higher object of establishing member States which shall compose the Greater East Asia State. Nor will such a super-State contradict the independence of each nation in East Asia. Nay, such a conception is bound to assure their very independence. The order to be secured by such a conception of super-State will represent a perfect fusion of the individual and the whole, and does not represent the opposition of the individual nor the loss of the character of the individual under the principle of formal uniformity.

These relations between the individual and the whole may be also said of the relations between the superior and subordinate as well as all the relative conceptions such as are found in modern Western ideas. It is not that the existence of the superior and subordinate itself constitutes any issue. Distinctions between the sovereign and subjects, father and children, the elder and younger, man and woman, and the differences of virtues and faculty—these are the indispensable factors for the formation of order. Where different individuals cluster around the center there can exist a real order. Moreover, it is only in such an order that the individuals can enjoy their full life.

(To Be Concluded)

SONGS FROM PRISON

By MAHATMA GANDHI

Until the secret of the soul be known,
All rites are vain:

If thou hast never known the Soul of souls,
No alms, no penances,
No pious prayers, no knowledge of the scriptures,
Can aught avail thee:

Thy life is wasted utterly,
Thou art not yet a man,
If trusting in these outward ceremonies,
Thou hast not yet known God.

FULL-HEARTED SUPPORT GIVEN BY CHINA

Real, Lasting Peace Will Be Established in Orient

By MASAO YAMAGUCHI
(From the Shukan Mainichi)

Although only four years have elapsed since the establishment of the Chinese National Army in August, 1939, its territories now include areas in North, Central and South China, comprising more than one-third of the area occupied by the Japanese Armies. The regulations pertaining to the establishment of the Army were decided upon by the Sixth National Convention held in Shanghai, after which the Military Academy was established in the outskirts of Shanghai, for the purpose of training officers. Following the removal of the capital to Nanking, the military organizations of both the Provisional and Reformation Governments were included into one organization which became the nucleus of the National Army. With the cooperation of the Japanese Army, it has become gradually strengthened in all of its ramifications, and bases were established in various parts of the country.

A three-year plan for establishment of an aviation corps has been in progress, while the Chinese Navy consist mainly of several war vessels donated by Japan such as the Haihsing, the Haihsiang, and the Hsiehli, with headquarters in Canton, Nanking, Weihaiwei, and bases in other parts of the nation.

Superior to Chungking Army

The Chinese National Army is superior to the Chungking army in point of its fighting strength. It is known as "An Iron Army," its formidableness noted together with the high moral aim of its supreme commander, the Nanking Government, as revealed most remarkably by the vast and increasing number of surrendering soldiers from the Chungking camp. Whereas the Chungking troops lose "face" in surrendering to the Japanese units, they argue that they are only serving their country in giving up resistance before the soldiers of the Nanking Army.

One notable recent example of the surrender of a Chungking officer is that of General Lung Ping-hsun, the only direct lieutenant of Chiang Kai-shek in North China, who surrendered to the National Army at the head of some 70,000 officers and men. He is now the chief commander of the 24th extraordinary army unit and is engaged in the great cause of establishing lasting peace in China. Another similar example in recent times was that of General Wu Hua-wen in Shantung, the head of some 20,000 men. Following his example, several other generals in the same province similarly gave up resistance to the National Army.

It is most noteworthy that after these armies are taken into the National Army and reorganized, they fight most bravely against the forces of Chiang Kai-shek. Leaders such as General Sun Liang-cheng, who surrendered with his army of 25,000 men, and General Wu Hua-wen have repeatedly combatted against the Chungking forces. During the recent one year they fought some 121 times against forces estimated at 120,000 and killed about 4,000 enemy soldiers, themselves making huge sacrifices in lives. Their examples give a valuable hint regarding our strategies against the Chungking camp.

Strengthened Ten Times

The strength of the Nanking Government may be said to have been consolidated ten times as compared to the period prior to the outbreak of the War of Great East Asia. There is no denying that the Chinese masses are reverting to the true spirit of th Orient and is a potent menace to Chiang Kai-shek. I once saw among the mountain fastness in the highland of North China a handful of Japanese soldiers keeping vigil by a watch tower together with Chinese police officials. I was told by these men that they could easily repel at least 500 Communist bandits who would attack them. I was very much astonished by the daring spirit of the Japanese soldiers and was much impressed, at the same time, by the bright faces of the Chinese who were cooperating with them. When I saw the students of the Chinese Military Academy in Nanking on another occasion, I received an indelible impression of their stalwart figures, predicting glorious future promises for China.

While I was with the Japanese Army engaged in operations in Kiangsu and nearby provinces, I happened to talk with a group of young Chinese in Imao, near Chinhua. They were youthful army officers specially trained under the personal guidance of Wang, pledged to give up their own lives for the great cause of China. They would go to any part of the interior in carrying out their mission, the only weapon each of them carried being a revolver, and never did I see any expression of anxiety on their features. Such robust and vigorous groups of youthful men are coming forth from their school to shoulder the destiny of China. The Chinese Military Academy in Nanking this year sent out the first batch of its graduates, burning with hopes of peace. It is not far distant when these youths of China will become the very backbone of the Army and materialize the much-awaited unification of that country.

The Chinese Army, with its duty of preserving peace behind the guns, has also taken a big role in recent operations against the Chungking armies by cooperating with the Japanese troops. The soldiers are especially valuable in making detections which are difficult for Japanese soldiers. They also have greatly served the Japanese army by taking up transportation and engineering activities.

Special mention may be made of the unit under the leadership of one Neng Chien-tung, a firm believer of the Pan-Asianism preached by Dr. Sun Yat-sen who organized a special unit which came to be known as the Huangwei Army or the Asia Defense Army, since then most noted for its strict military discipline and, the dare-devil spirit of its officers and men. He was given a letter of thanks by the commander of the Japanese Army. With more men like Neng Chien-tung, the National Army will be all the more strengthened and be able to carry out its avowed purpose of establishing a real and lasting peace in the Orient. When the National Army fights shoulder to shoulder with the Japanese Army in the first line of battle against the Chungking troops, the object of peace and fundamental ideals of China will be realized. It is up to the National Army to materialize the ideals of Sun Yat-sen,

News Behind the News

The Strange Case of Sumner Welles

By MASAO DODO

Editor's note:—This is the fifth of a series of articles by Masao Dodo on America's wartime political casualties.

II

The disastrous undoing of Sumner Welles coincided with the evolution of the Lend-Lease program. As the international clientele grew in size and scope soon after the Lend-Lease inception in March 1941, it became increasingly evident that the State Department was destined to play second fiddle to Roosevelt's chief steward, Harry Hopkins. All the agents of the State Department—from Hull, Welles, Berle and so on down the line—became mere front men. They no longer possessed the final say in any of the major Lend-Lease transactions. And yet, they were, ex officio, the men to whom all the foreign clients applied for benefits. As Washington became a beggars' cosmopolis, the State Department assumed the role of the horse-trade center. And Harry Hopkins, an outsider, was the Lord Keeper of the President's imperialistic seal. Sumner Welles' diplomatic "correctness" was the first to suffer from this basic irregularity. American diplomacy became everybody's game with nobody in the State Department holding the final authority.

The late summer of 1943 was a harassing interlude for the Washington State Department. There was a loud chorus of bitter complaints about the way the Department was handling the United States foreign policy. And setting pace to that discordant music was the persistent booming rumor the rupture between Chief Hull and Adjutant Welles. The punctured air over Washington was made the more jarring to the nerves of the people by the extreme irritability of President Roosevelt himself over the mess.

Odious Epithets Hurled

Even the normally Democratic New York Times was saying that the disaffection between Hull and Welles could no longer be covered up. It even charged that "odious epithets" were being hurled by many disgruntled members of the State Department at their chiefs.

Particularly pointed was the charge by James D. LeCron who served his quitting notice as the Department's negotiator of food agreements with Latin American countries. "In the stifling swirl of red tape," he said, "which the State Department manages to twine around any agency that does business abroad, the Department had been guilty of interference, obstruction, delay and unintelligent dictation. I am unwilling any longer to beat my head against the wall of incompetence and interference."

Another finger of accusation was pointed by the usually temperate Columnist Raymond Clapper. He openly wrote in his syndicated newspaper article that he had finally seen enough of that "rather sorry, moth-eaten crew hovering around Secretary Hull."

Still another was that of William L. Shirer, the author of the popular "Berlin Diary" and a noted radio commentator. He openly and freely referred to the "frightened, timid little men who make our foreign policies."

Another complaint came from Joseph M. Jones, a Far East expert formerly of the State Department, who wrote in the September issue of the Fortune Magazine: "The State Department is one of the most inefficient organizations in the world. It is not run. It just jerks along. It is able, without moving, simply through inaction and lack of vision, to lay the dead hand on the prospect of change and to insure after this war, we merely get more of the same."

Under these circumstances, it was inevitable that some of the shrapnel fragments should land on the head of the President himself. Such a fragment was the magazine article by George Soule, whose long-standing as one of America's intellectual leaders gave his words considerable weight. "The key to Mr. Roosevelt," wrote George Soule, "is that he is a politician.... Much of his policy is improvised to meet current agitations and demands. As a matter of fact, the President is personally responsible for what goes on in his administration. Foreign policy is an example."

Stumbled on Russia

Sumner Welles' role in the free-for-all was forcibly brought out in the open during the first week of September when Roosevelt stumbled, in his relation with the press, on the Russian stump. At one of the White House press conferences, the newsmen found the President simmering with fury. They watched the blood surge to his cheeks as he flung one invective after another at a certain "columnist." He said that the the columnist was a contemptible liar, "had jeopardized the United Nations unity and had committed an act of bad faith toward his nation." The target of this outburst was Drew Pearson, whose syndicated column, "the Washington Merry-Go-Round", reaches a wide circle of reading public through the combined circulation of 18,500,000 subscribing newspaper copies. The regularly scheduled radio version of his column is credited with an audience of 3,500,000 fans. And the passage in question was the following:

"Mr. Hull and his chief assistants, Adolf Berle, Jimmy Dunn, Breckenridge Long, actually would like to see Russia bled white—and the Russians know it."

As is readily observed, the name of Sumner Welles was conspicuously missing from Pearson's list of Russia-haters. The psychological effect of the obvious omission was electric. The State Department immediately became a hive of bitterest recriminations. The retirement of Sumner Welles was soon to follow.

Could Not Untangle Itself

Thus went the woeful tale of Sumner Welles. Somehow, he managed to extricate himself from the most ignoble of feuds that had ever beset America's State Department. But the Department itself did not, and could not, untangle itself. It is still trying hard to reprieve itself. One of its frantic efforts is the launching of a new radio program, "The State Department Speaks", which is scheduled to make its domestic debut early in January. A report this week lists such prospective broadcasters as: Chief Cordell Hull, Welles' successor Edward Stettinius, Assistants Breckenridge Long, Dean Acheson, and Adolf Berle. The novice publicity men might well take special care not to make any slip in their self-vindication, for Sumner Welles has a weapon, too,—a syndicated newspaper column of his own.

Most likely, the first few rounds will be tepid enough. The members of the new apologist squad will watch out with utmost caution not to step on Sumner Welles' sore toes. Welles himself also is likely to pull his punches. For, after all, he had actively belonged to the one and the same gang of men who, although disagreement now separates him from the rest, have brought the curse of the nation upon themselves. To cover up the joint guilt of ten years' accumulation, the novice columnist and the new apologist radio squad will try to comport themselves together in another vagary of self-glorification—just as Hull and Welles had conducted themselves in the early stages of their teamwork. But the clumsy attempt amounts to mutually setting a public pillory for the columnist and the radio squad. Their game is already up. The American public knows these men too well. The new venture is another way stepping up the already high rates of America's wartime political casualties.

(End)

Nippon Times
Evening

No. 16,074 — TOKYO, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1943 — 第三種郵便物認可 昭和十五年十二月二十七日 — Price 8 Sen

To Our Goal, With but One Heart and One Object!

Fight It Out to the Last Man Till America and Britain Are Down and Out

Press Comments

Friday, December 24
ASAHI—More War Power
TOKYO SHIMBUN—Churchill's Bloomer

More War Power

ASAHI—The military conscription age has been lowered from 20 to 19. This measure is legally based on the rule which was annexed to the Military Service Law in the regular session of the Diet last year, that in wartime or in time of an emergency the conscription age or the period of service may be changed by Imperial Ordinance. Thus, no Emergency Imperial Ordinance is needed for the measure but simply an ordinary Imperial Ordinance.

In view of the stringent times, the measure should be considered only appropriate, but it should be noted, at the same time, that the step amounts, after all, merely to an advancement of the date of entering the barracks for young men by only a few months beginning next year. This being so, we feel reassured that we are fighting this tremendous war with quite a margin of strength.

In the Soviet Union already all youths of 16 years of age and above have been mobilized, and in the United States and Britain, the conscription age has been lowered to 18. The fact that we, fighting on the vast Continent, garrisoning the innumerable islands of the South and operating throughout the vast Pacific, require mobilization only to such an extent proves the marked superiority of our human resources.

All young men of the country are aware that the times are momentous. Their will to go and smash the enemy has been immeasurably stirred. Their mission is truly great and we expect great things of them.

Churchill's Bloomer

TOKYO SHIMBUN—Prime Minister Churchill, prostrated with pneumonia on his way back from the Cairo and Teheran conferences, must have viewed the future of his country with all the heavier gloom for his illness. He may declaim that he is no liquidator of the British Empire but he cannot deny that whether through the operations of the Axis nations or encroachment of American or Soviet influence, the British Empire is slowly but surely crumbling. British domination of the world as political leader is now already a thing of the past and Britain cannot now be said to be a first-class Power. It is merely subsisting by relying on the strengths of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Recently, no doubt owing to the importance of the Red Army in the war against Germany, the cowering attitude of Britain toward the Soviet Union has become extremely marked. Having forsaken the Polish refugee regime to its fate, Britain is now apparently selling it to the Soviets in order to get into the good graces of the Kremlin.

The situation being such, it is only natural that the various refugee regimes that had been looking up to Britain as their protector should now agitate in panic in realization of the unreliability of Britain. Already Benes and de Gaulle have transferred their allegiance from Britain to the Soviet Union, finding in the latter a more reliable protector. In his recent dispatches, it is said, the former King of Greece pointed out that the unity and independence of his country would be hopeless so long as Greece relied on Britain. Such indications prove that Britain has fallen in the scale of power and well might Churchill groan on his sickbed, mental anguish added to physical.

In June, 1941, he danced for joy that Germany had clashed with the Soviet Union, and joined hands with the Soviets, whom he had before despised, on the ground that any enemy of Germany was his friend. Could he have foreseen that in a couple of years he would have to kowtow before the Soviets? Thus, Churchill seems to have made a gross miscalculation.

Churchill joined hands with Premier Josef Stalin, of course, in order to profit from the German-Soviet War as much as possible. He was overjoyed on receiving the report of the clash not merely because he thought that the frightful strain on the British Isles would be eased but because he thought that the two greatest enemies of Britain in Europe would cancel each other out without exertions on Britain's part.

But Churchill has found that he had entirely miscalculated the Soviet strength. After two and a half years of war he still finds the Soviet armed strength far from negligible. On the contrary, as it has borne the

(Continued on Page 2)

Notice

Tomorrow being Taisho Tenno Sai, a national holiday, there will be no Evening Edition of the Nippon Times.

ACROSS YUNNAN SKIES, a formation of Imperial Army planes speed gallantly toward their objective. As disclosed in recent announcements by Imperial Headquarters, the furious assaults launched by these invincible air squadrons during the past several days have wreaked a heavy toll, as the continuous raids prove smashingly effective not only against the war facilities of the enemy but also are proving a demoralizing factor to their morale. (Above photo by courtesy of War Ministry)

BOLIVIA BARES NEW POLICIES

Will Observe Present Constitution, Pacts With Foreign States

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 23.—The new Bolivian Government, headed by Major Alberto Villarroel, yesterday, announced its policy as follows, according to La Paz reports.

1. The new Government will enforce rational administration, observe the present Constitution and all international treaties, and will also recognize all interests and rights of foreign residents.

2. Martial law declared by the former government will continue.

3. The presidential election will be held in May, 1944.

4. Compensation will be paid to the families of the miners at the tin mine who were killed by Bolivian troops, and also a public trial for people responsible for causing the internal unrest will be held.

Other nations of the American continent are still refraining from recognizing the new Government of Bolivia, and Secretary of State Hull said today at his press conference as follows, according to Washington reports.

"We are now exchanging information with various Governments of the American Continent."

Vice-President Alberto Guani of Uruguay said as follows, according to reports from Montevideo.

"Whenever any country of the American Continent undergoes a political change, all countries of the Pan-American Union should hold a joint conference."

Meanwhile, reports from Santiago indicate that the Chilean Government is also hesitating to recognize the new Government of Bolivia.

Bolivia Issue Side-Stepped

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—Replying to a question at a press conference as to whether the United States would recognize the new Bolivian Government, Secretary of State Hull, today, declared, "Considerations of the security of the Western Hemisphere and the war efforts of the United Nations must have first importance in any matter of this or similar character," according to a Washington dispatch.

Hull added, "Included in the considerations are possibilities of outside influences which may be enabled to play an important part. We must not forget that the Western Hemisphere is subject to outside influences."

Strike Hits Mexico City

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 23.—About 30,000 workers in the fiber industry at Mexico City went out on a strike today, demanding a wage increase of more than 20 per cent, according to reports from that city.

Mexico is now in a critical condition of unrest as prices of daily necessities are soaring daily and riots may break out at any moment. Meanwhile, the Government is trying to prevent the extension of the strike to other industries.

Chiang's Air Force Badly Battered; British, U.S. Fliers Degenerating

On the heels of their devastating attacks on Kunming and Yunnani on December 18 and 19, a powerful formation of bomber and fighter planes of the Japanese Army Air Forces made a smashing raid on Kunming on the afternoon of December 22, as announced by Imperial Headquarters yesterday.

Forty enemy F-40, F-51 and P-36 planes, appeared to resist the Imperial Air Forces and a fierce aerial battle ensued. The Army Eagles emerged triumphant, scoring a total of 26 enemy planes downed.

Then, attacking a group of enemy planes concentrated on the ground, the Japanese airmen blasted and set ablaze six large-sized and eight small-sized planes. Thus, a total loss of 40 planes has been inflicted on the enemy.

The Chungking air forces had been placed under the control of the American air forces in China, but more than half of the Chungking planes were obsolete. Out of the enemy's 300 to 400 first-line planes, 84 have been lost in the Changteh operations. The devastating attacks by our Wild Eagles on December 18 and 19 accounted for 22 planes. The cripping loss this time of 40 planes has reduced the enemy's air forces in a short space since the middle of November to less than one-half of their former strength.

In the raid on Kunming on December 22, the enemy planes, had been in the air 20 minutes before the Japanese machines zoomed into sight. It is worthy of special attention to note that our Wild Eagles had plunged headlong against the waiting enemy formation and achieved such brilliant results. In face of the fierce fighting spirit and the seasoned skill of Japanese airmen, the enemy is being held completely in check.

Enemy Dealt Big Blows

In spite of the exaggerated propaganda issued by the anti-Axis during the rainy season, the enemy air forces in India have been revealed as completely unable to fight effectively against the Japanese air arm. In the period over two months since the end of the rainy period, the Japanese Air Forces have dealt crushing blows to the enemy in India.

The Japanese attacks have been so furious that the Delhi radio has been talking of them continually in a way which makes its declarations seem like pleas for its home Government to do something. With the rainy season ended and the hot sun shining in the sky, the enemy's hopes of any effective action against the Japanese Forces are melting away. Thus comments a December 22 dispatch from an undisclosed base in Burma to the Yomiuri-Hochi, which continues as follows:

Since October, Japanese Forces have shot down and damaged over 210 enemy planes, most of which were large planes such as B-24's, C-46's and C-47's. At a time when the quantity and quality of flying personnel have almost an absolute effect on operations, the anxiety and panic gripping the enemy at the loss of more than 500 flying personnel in the space of two months is not hard to imagine.

The enemy flying forces which the Japanese airmen fought against were the newest, sent straight from the American mainland. The fact that the Americans have now come out to the surface of fighting since the end of the rainy season indicates that enemy leadership is shifting from the British air force to the American.

British Petering Out

The enemy's first line planes in India are reported to number about 800. The mainstay of that body, that is the force which is strong enough to face the Japanese air arm numbers 200 and several score of the American air force and is made up of B-24 and B25 bombers and long-range fighters such as the P-51 and P-38. In addition, here is a total of X hundred British planes, including night bomber units of Liberators, Vickers-Wellingtons and Bristol-Blenheims, the last of which have lost their value in fighting. These British planes are not being replenished due to the continued, non-advancing situation in Europe, and are being gradually whittled down.

In the joint air activity of the American and British air forces, the wing system was adopted at the time Field-Marshal Viscount Archibald Wavell boasted of operations to retake Burma at the end of the rainy season last year. In that system, the American air force undertook daylight bombing raids against Burma and the British took on the night time duties. American fighters assumed responsibility in meeting Japanese air attacks and the British fighters carried out guerrilla raids against northern Burma. However, the system was actually used only in raids against Burma before the rainy season.

The American fighters which were to take over the duties of meeting the Japanese Air Forces over India only began showing up gradually after the end of the rainy season this year. This was because the stress of the American air force was laid in increasing its force in China. Thus, the wing system broke down, and the American air force, which was increased greatly with the excuse that the British air force was weakening, took over the actual power in handling all of the Indian air operations.

In recent days, the enemy raids have grown somewhat in scale when compared to those of before the end of the rainy season and the enemy apparently is changing from guerrilla-like raids to concentrated bombing. Enemy bombers, which used to come unescorted, now are being accompanied by fighters. The escorting fighters, however, are few, and the Lockheed P-38's and the P-51's are improvements on other enemy fighters only in that they are longer-ranged, and are still no match for the Japanese fighters.

The F-15 was designed and adopted by the enemy, which realized at last that its policy of using only heavy fighters was wrong. Immediately upon reaching India, they were sent out into the fighting and on November 25 raided Rangoon for the first time. But sad for the enemy, a squadron of these planes was wiped out and its career was ruined on its debut.

Lose Fighting Will

Over India, the Japanese Air Forces have gone almost unchallenged by enemy planes since the Chitta-

(Continued on Page 2)

OFFER REFUSED BY U.S. RAILMEN

Situation Becoming Graver as Roosevelt's Compromise Failure

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—Representatives of the United States Railway Workers' Brotherhoods called on President Roosevelt at the White House yesterday and rejected the compromise plan submitted by the President, according to Washington reports.

The Brotherhoods are said to have drafted a counter plan to be presented to the President.

Situation Graver

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 23.—Due to the stubborn and uncompromising attitude of the railway operators, the railway dispute in America has become extremely grave. President Roosevelt, confronted with the harassing problem, today, offered coercive arbitrative measures to the railway brotherhoods and to the railway companies, a Washington dispatch disclosed.

The operators and the railway companies had been continuing negotiations over the wage issue but no compromise was reached. Thus, President Roosevelt, greatly aggravative, presentd his coercive arbitrative measures to both parties, the report added.

Thus far, two brotherhoods of the Railway Engineers and the Railway Operators have accepted the President's arbitrative measures, but the other three brotherhoods have not yet expressed their decisions.

Meanwhile, President Roosevelt reportedly also presented mediatory measures to 15 other brotherhoods of railway non-operators, the dispatch added.

Labor Official Attacked

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—A reward of $10,000 has been posted in San Francisco by the union of operating engineers for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons who hurled acid on Victor S. Swanson, business manager of the American Federation of Labor, on Monday night in a street attack.

Attending physicians said that Swanson may lose the sight of one eye.

BRITAIN'S NAVAL FORCES LAND ON MADEIRA ISLES

Belong to Portugal—Churchill Due There

Domei

BERLIN, December 23.—British naval forces have made landings on the Madeira Islands, Portuguese territory, located off the northwest coast of Africa, according to a Lisbon dispatch. However, the Portuguese Government has not yet confirmed the report.

Domei

BERLIN, December 23.—Prime Minister Churchill will recuperate from his illness on Madeira Islands, this winter, according to another dispatch from Lisbon.

Hsinminhui to Observe 8th, 9th of Every Month

Domei

PEKING, December 23.—The Hsinmin Society has decided to set aside the 8th and the 9th of each month, marking respectively the commencement of the War of Greater East Asia and the declaration of war against America and Britain by China, as Decisive War Life Days. The observance of these days will be enforced from January next year.

On these two days, prayers will be offered for the victorious consummation of the War of Greater East Asia, donations solicited for airplane funds and movements launched for contributions of iron and other metals. Aside from the foregoing, the populace will don their air defense uniforms and at each neighborhood associations, inspections will be made on the conditions of anti-air raid and fire extinguishing apparatuses.

Various round table discussions will also be held in order to enhance the spirit of Sino-Japanese friendly neighborliness. These two days will unfold numerous undertakings to emphasize the real significance of a decisive wartime life to attain ultimate victory.

Reich Tanks Start Counter-Thrust As Winter Arrives on East Front

Domei

LISBON, December 23.—Notwithstanding the advent of "General Winter," German forces launched one of their heaviest tank counter-offensives of the war in the Zhlobin and Korosten areas of the Ukraine, west of Kiev, with Soviets responding with heavy artillery fire, according to Moscow reports.

The large-scale German counter-offensive at Kirovograd made further considerable headway on Wednesday, according to Berlin reports. Southeast of the city, Reich troops ousted the stubbornly resisting enemy from various hill positions, it was added.

North of Kirovograd, the Germans, continuing their counter-thrusts, wiped out the Soviet defenders. In addition to continuing their counter-attacks northeast of Zhitomir, the Germans opened up counter-operations in the area northwest of Rjechitza, and wrested a number of positions from the Red Army.

In the area northeast of Zhitomir, the Soviets made stubborn attempts, with strong infantry and tank forces, to check the German advance and, in the big tank battle that followed, they lost 76 tanks.

Meanwhile, it is reported by Berlin that the Red Army has opened up a drive for Vitebsk, in the northern sector of the Eastern Front, with large concentrations of modern weapons, but the attacks slackened considerably during the last 24 hours.

German military experts attributed this to the heavy losses in men and tanks suffered by the Soviets in this fighting sectors during the past few days.

In the southernmost sector of the Eastern Front, Soviet attacks against the Nikopol bridgehead lessened in intensity, it was reported. Minor Soviet attacks on Wednesday were repulsed by the Wehrmacht partly in fighting at close quarters.

Inclement weather restricted the activity of the Luftwaffe on Wednesday, it was added.

Anti-Axis reports, meantime, admitted that the Germans are putting up a terrific resistance on the South Italian Front.

Berlin reports said that the situation has changed but little during the past 24 hours due mostly to bad weather. In the eastern sector, the British 8th army on Wednesday renewed its attacks with the aim of occupying Ortona, but the offensive, which was made in three waves, collapsed.

The Americans admitted losing 21 heavy bombers and four fighter planes in a "sweep" on northwestern Germany on Wednesday.

U.S. Public May See Gory Films Showing Losses at Tarawa

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—In a move to stimulate the lagging morale and production efforts on the American home front, "ghastly and gory" official motion pictures of the landing at Tarawa may be released to the public, according to Washington dispatches. The pictures have already been shown to select groups in Washington but the versions for public release have been cut to remove some of the more terrible features of the losses, which Navy Secretary Knox described as the heaviest suffered by the U.S. Marine Corps. The dispatch added that real efforts may be made by the high executives to induce the army and navy authorities to let the people view the battle films in unexpurgated form.

LUFTWAFFE CONTINUES TO STRIKE AT LONDON

British Defense Chief Seen Apprehensive

Domei

LISBON, December 23.—The British Air Ministry announced that units of the Luftwaffe again bombed London yesterday night, causing damage and casualties, it is reported from the British capital.

Domei

BERLIN, December 23.—Reich bombers dropped bombs on Eastbourne, England, yesterday night, German military authorities announced today.

Domei

LISBON, December 23.—Apprehension that the Germans might strike a counter-blow in the near future in retaliation for British terror-raids was voiced today by General Sir Frederick Pile, Commander of the British Air Defense Forces, according to London reports.

Pile said, "I think the Germans still have a lot of kick in them," adding, "we are bombing them very hard but they are sticking it out pretty well and I have never altered my opinion that they will come back at us. They could, if they like, give us a good pasting."

Thailand Passes 3 Bills

Domei

BANGKOK, December 23.—Decision to increase the rate on stamp tax and to establish new restaurant and hotel taxes as well as to effect certain revisions in the educational system was reached at today's session of the Thai Assembly of Peoples' Representatives.

To Rebuild Reich Cities

Domei

BERLIN, December 23.—The Fuehrer ordered Dr. Albert Speer, Minister of Munitions, to undertake the task of reconstructing the German cities destroyed by enemy air raids, today. Dr. Speer is to mobilize all the architects of Germany and immediately commence reconstruction of all cities and towns destroyed by enemy planes.

P.I. Labor Rally Planned

Domei

MANILA, December 22.—Minister of Interior Arsenio Bonifacio will address a mass rally of Filipino laborers at the Plaza Moriones at 9 a.m. on December 26. The rally will be held under the auspices of the Bureau of Employment.

NIPPON OFFICER IN P.I. DONATES DRESSES TO POOR

Laurel Feles 5,000 At Christmas Party

Domei

MANILA, December 23.—Christmas cheer will be extended to the poor and needy, expectant mothers and those with children not over two years of age when more than 5,000 baby dresses donated by the Supreme Commander of the Japanese Imperial Forces in the Philippines, will be distributed today and tomorrow at the Office of Liaison of the Bureau of Public Assistance.

The highlight of today's Christmas festivities will occur in the afternoon at the Malacanan Palace where President and Mrs. Jose P. Laurel will be guests to some 5,000 poor children. Mayor Leon Guinto of Manila will be the master of ceremonies, while President Laurel will personally welcome his guests.

Meanwhile, toy gifts valued at more than 70,000 pesos will be given to the children of this city by the City Hall through the various district health centers.

Approximately 6,000 persons enjoyed the Yuletide season yesterday as the Kalibapi and the Manila Shimbun distributed 115,000 pesos in cash and goods at the Philippine Normal School.

British Coal Output Poor

(Special to the Nippon Times)

GENEVA, December 21.—The British coal situation was most discouraging all through autumn, writes the Daily Telegraph. During the 12 weeks, preceding November 27, the British coal production was by 3,140,000 tons less than in the last year. For the entire year, it was 12 million tons of coal less than during the previous year. The miners' strike, shortage of railway trucks, and the attitude of the miners as well the Government contributed to the shrinking of production.

Java Economists Meet

Domei

DJAKARTA, December 24.—Economic officials from seven eastern provinces in Java met recently in Surabaya, presided by the Governor of Surabaya Province, to discuss ways and means to improve the system of collection and distribution of important commodities.

This is the first liaison conference of eastern provinces since the military administrator promulgated the order establishing inter-provincial liaison conferences.

84TH DIET SET TO BEGIN TASK

Both Houses Finish Formalities Today—Opening on Sunday

The 84th Imperial Diet, the third ordinary session since the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, was formally formed this morning, and the Government was notified of its formation. The opening ceremony will be held on December 26, as tomorrow is Taisho Tenno Sai, a national holiday commemorating the demise of the Emperor Taisho.

Members of the House of Peers assembled at a little after 9 a.m. this morning, and when the attendance had reached more than one-third of the total membership, the plenary meeting was opened.

Selection of section chiefs and managers was entrusted to the President. Upon the announcement of their selection, after a short recess, the Upper House was formally organized.

The President immediately notified the Government and the House of Representatives on the formation of the House of Peers. Then the plenary meeting of the House of Peers was closed.

Members of the House of Representatives also met at 9 a.m. in the Diet building. Previous to the process of forming the House, Sobei Yanagawa and Toshihide Nakazaki, new members from the first district of Ibaragi Prefecture, were introduced.

Selection of section chiefs and managers was entrusted to the Speaker. After the announcement of their selection, the House was formally formed, and its organization as notified to the Government and the House of Peers.

Thus, the 84th Imperial Diet was duly formed.

On December 26, when the opening ceremony is to be held, the House of Representatives will hold, after the ceremony, the election of the House Chairman and the Standing Committee, setting a new record for facilitating the speedy and efficient functioning of the Diet.

On Monday, December 27, the War Minister and the Navy Minister will submit reports on recent war developments to both Houses of the Diet. Thereupon the Houses will vote on resolutions to express thanks to the officers and men at the front.

Then, the 84th Diet will adjourn until January, and both Houses will be in readiness to resume their function whenever demanded.

Members of the House of Peers at present are divided as follows:—164 Kenkyukai, 68 Koseikai, 28 Koyu Club, 29 Dowakai, 44 Kayokai, 30 Independent Club and nine independent members.

The present members of the House of Representatives number 451, and there are 15 vacant seats. Seven members were called to the colors. Of the present members, 440 belong to the Imperial Rule Assistance Political Society.

Peking Italians Pledge Loyalty to Mussolini

Domei

PEKING, December 23.—Thirty-one Italian residents here were released today from the treatment accorded them as psuedo-enemy nationals as they pledged loyalty to the Fascist Republican Government of Italy headed by Premier Benito Mussolini.

These Italians were invited to the Japanese Consulate-General here at 2:30 p.m. yesterday, and, in the presence of Japanese officials, signed their declaration of loyalty to the Fascist Government.

It is understood that they will form a committee for maintaining liaison with authorities concerned, until the formal appointment of a representative of the Fascist Republican Government at Peking.

10 Soviet Subs Sunk

Domei

BERLIN, December 23.—The German military quarters announced today that German forces had sunk 10 Soviet submarines in Kronstadt Bay in the southeastern section of the Gulf of Finland during the year. The announcement is as follows:

"German forces sank 10 Soviet submarines in Kronstadt Bay during the current year. As ice has already formed in the bay, the Soviet Navy operating from this base into the Baltic Sea can no longer menace the marine transportation of the German forces."

MARSHALL BACK IN WASHINGTON

Returns From Pacific Front; Confers With Roosevelt and Leahy

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 23.—General George C. Marshall, United States Army Chief of Staff, who inspected the Pacific fronts after attending the Teheran Conference, returned to Washington today, according to Washington reports.

Upon his return to the capital, he immediately went to the White House to confer with President Roosevelt and Admiral William D. Leahy, Chief of Staff to the President.

Eisenhower to Command

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—General Dwight Eisenhower, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army in the Mediterranean area, and not General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, has been definitely decided to head the invasion of Western Europe, according to the New York Times today.

The journal declared that the decision reached is not the result of any change in strategy but rather to the feeling that as Marshall is doing such a smooth working job as Chief of Staff, he should not be shifted.

Marshall Back Home

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—Washington dispatches state that General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, returned to America today and is presently en route to Washingon from Los Angeles after visiting the entire Pacific battle area on his way home from the Cairo and Teheran conferences.

Marshall is said to have conferred with General Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the Anti-Axis Forces in Southwestern Pacific, and Admiral William Halsey, Commander of the United States Fleet in the South Pacific Waters. Marshall also met Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet, in Honolulu.

CHIANG WOOS MAHATMA FOR ANTI-AXIS CAUSE

Other Indians Urged To Cooperate In War

Domei

LISBON, December 23.—With the contemplated anti-Axis invasion of East Asia and the Indian situation experiencing a hopeless deadlock, General Chiang Kai-shek in concert with his fellow anti-Axis ringleaders, who are showing signs of anxiety, is resorting to wooing tactics toward Mahatma Gandhi, Indian sage, now imprisoned by the British, a New Delhi dispatch quoted the Delhi Herald yesterday.

The report disclosed that Chiang entreated the Mahatma and other leaders of the Indian National Congress to tide over the deadlock and extend all-out cooperation to the anti-Axis efforts in the present war. Certain Indians, who recently conferred with Chiang in Chungking, reportedly returned to India and conveyed the Chungking dictator's desires to Mr. Gandhi.

The report further disclosed that Chiang expressed the opinion that before any steps should be taken in the large-scale offensive on East Asia, first of all, the internal situation prevailing in India must be settled. "The terrible famine sweeping Bengal Province and other political problems confronting India must first of all see complete settlement," Chiang declared.

Borneo Health Drive Set

Domei

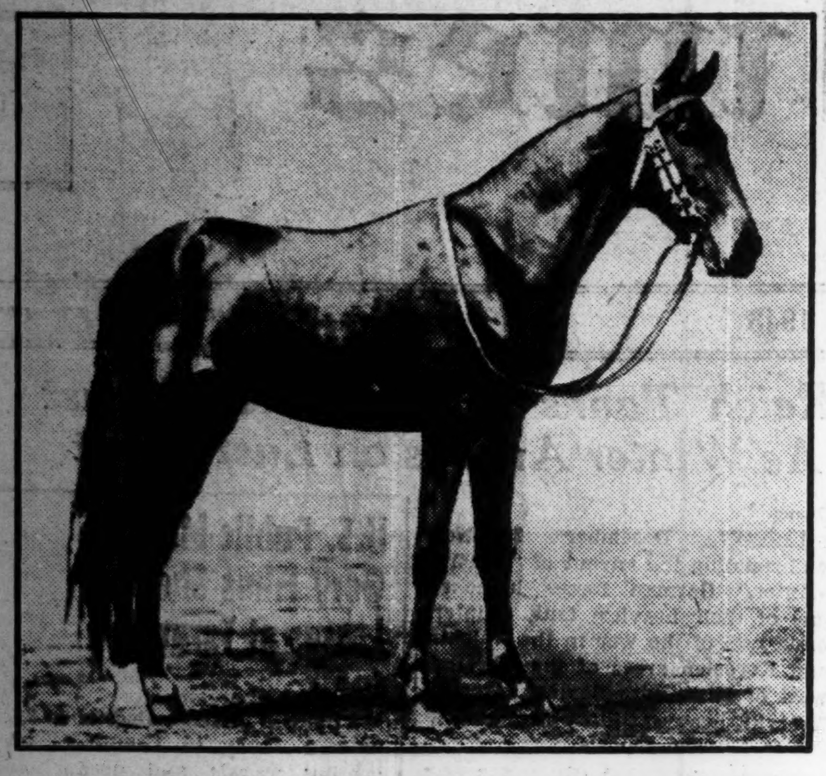
BANJERMASIN, December 23.—Investigation will soon be started on the condition of the health of the general populace, the types of prevalent diseases and their counter-measures as well as other fields of local hygiene and health by the health authorities of the Japanese Military Administration.

Cutting the start for the projected investigations, a party of five health officers left for two of the neighboring island districts. The authorities will determine their health counter-measure policies on the basis of reports by these health inspection corps.

Yanks Lose 25 Planes

Domei

LISBON, December 23.—American bomber and fighter plane units raided northwestern Germany yesterday, and 21 heavy bombers and four fighter planes have not returned, announced the Headquarters of United States Air Forces in Britain today, according to London reports.



Two noble mounts, Shizuharu and Ashu, have been respectfully presented to His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince by the Imperial Army, on the occasion of His Imperial Highness' 10th Birthday yesterday. His Imperial Highness had recently taken up riding and has shown a wonderful aptitude in mastering the fine points of horsemanship. Shizuhara is a three-year-old Anglo-Arabian thoroughbred raised in Hokkaido, and Ashu is a seven-year-old pony from Luzon Island, the Philippines. Colonel Kyuzo Kodama, head of the Army Horse Administration Department, accompanied the horses to the Imperial Household Ministry and presented the mounts to His Imperial Highness through the Bureau of the Imperial Mews. **Shown above is the pony, Ashu, one of the mounts which was presented yesterday.**

Rural Folks in Philippines Fete Xmas in Typical Filipino Spirit

By N. V. M. GONZALES

Domei

MANILA, December 24.—"Maligayang Pasko!"

With these words, which literally means "Merry Christmas," yuletide cheer and that now classic sentiment of "peace on earth and goodwill toward men" attain a truly Filipino meaning. Children and old folk alike say the greeting with smiles—although in the case of children, the greeting carries the honorific "po" (Thus, "Maligayang pasko, po!")—which is as it should be.

"Pasko" which means "Christmas" is derived from the Spanish word "pascua," and the Tagalog—that is to say, Filipino, tongue does not trifle with the word. For it brings to mind a host of associations peculiar only to that one time of the year when all Christians celebrate the Nativity at Bethlehem.

In the Philippines, however, the celebration partakes of a character different from that observed anywhere else. Thus, in some countries the yuletide season is invariably associated with tinsel stars and a fir tree glittering with these, not to mention stockings secretly hung up in the dead of night in the expectation that that good old gentleman, Santa Claus of the raindeer-country, would pay "home sweet home" a visit.

But the Filipino boy or girl, for one thing, does not believe in Santa Claus. It is only among city folk and in the homes of the impressionable middle class in the provinces where that kind old gentleman with the sled and his bag of gifts, is ever eagerly awaited come Christmas time. By and large, the average Filipino boy or girl does not believe in this gentleman from the snow-lands. And indeed it may be said that the fact that the Santa Claus and the Christmas tree tradition has not succeeded in taking root in Filipino folkways is about one of the best proofs that may be pointed out to show how stubborn the Filipino spirit is, after all, when it comes to assimilating alien cultures for which there is really no place in the truly Filipino way of life.

Atmosphere of Pasko

Christmas time in the Philippines has its own atmosphere and flavor unlike anything else in the world. The "simbang gabi" or night masses, which comes to a climax on "mesa de aguinaldo" which is solemnized on Christmas eve, highlights the celebration of the yuletide season. Then we have the smell of richly-baked rice cakes or "bibingkas" that are sold by street-venders on these cold December mornings, and the glow of the stoves on the street-sides where these cakes are made; then the warm feeling in one's hands when holding this delicacy or its cousin, the "puto," and the taste of these foods in one's mouth, what with the usually abundant helpings of grated coconut meat that go with them—all these make up the true flavor of a Philippine Christmas.

Christmas is a children's holiday—as is he case almost everywhere. And thus to the many little things that help spell out the atmosphere of a true Filipino Christmas, we must add the thrill which only children know as they go about from house to house of poor and rich relations alike to receive gifts of money and devour great quantities of such delicacies as suman and chocolate, pinipig or rice grains baked and pounded flat, and the like. And add to these the emotion which only the old and the wise can know as they receive the ever innocent children at their homes, the while the town curate perhaps plays host to hundreds of devout who visit him at his convent in the hope of coming home afterward with trophies of the day—medallions of various shapes and sizes, post cards with the prints of their most loved saints, and other religious momentos of the occasion.

Yuletide season in the provinces is usually heralded by the coming of the crisp and chilly mornings of December, which coincides, strangely enough, with the coming home from schools in the cities of students for their short Christmas vacation. Meanwhile, the festive air has already been accentuated by the celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Concepcion, which falls on December 8, for this is a much awaited holiday in many a town and barrio throughout the country. By now the members of the town's brass band have already cleaned their musical instruments and the itinerant troupe of zarzuela (Takalog drama)) performers have already arrived.

During the nine consecutive nights when the "simbang gabi" is solemnized, the whole town may turn out en masse notwithstanding the chill December winds. For the "simbang gabi" is a social event in itself, and has no equivalent both in the sincerity with which the devout attend the masses on one hand and the pageantry inherent in the celebration on the other. Here then the marriageables of the community meet, and just how many vows and sealed or broken during the walks to and from "simbang gabi" on many a chilly December dawn only Cupid knows. But then, of course, Filipinos don't believe in Cupid, either!

Celebrated in Churches

Now the dear and solemn pageant of Nativity at Bethlehem is celebrated at every church and chapel on Christmas Eve, where organ music and choir singing accentuate that indefinable beauty that is in the event. This over, the churchgoers return home to partake of the "aguinaldo"—a usually sumptuous midnight meal such as only the Filipino housewife can serve. Roast pig or lechon and sweatmeats are served on this occasion, and now too may one drink some good heady tuba, that famous beverage from the coconut tree, which only the Filipino and his brother Malais can truly appreciate.

Toward the wee hours of morning, the family and guests may spend their time story-telling or gossipping, and by morning we find the children out gift-hunting and their parents, indefatigable gift-givers that they are, once more on the dispensation side of the bargain. To citizens of a town who have their roster of god-sons and god-daughters, Christmas Day can thus become an expensive day!

To the Moderns

City folk of the Philippines, it must be conceded, have their own way of celebrating the season. But theirs, we must regret, is not the typically Filipino Christmas. Theirs may be the modern Christmas, which is a long way off from being Philippine. A Manila Christmas is not a Filipino Christmas in precisely the same way as Manila cannot be the whole Philippines.

One must go out to the provinces, or preferably out to the country where the common tao lives, for 'tis he who can give poise and beauty to the Christmas season as the Filipino spirit would have it.

The common tao is as good a Christian as any alive on this earth and he has a way of saying "Maligayang Pasko!"

CZECH REGIME SIGNS TREATY

President Benes Affixes Signature To Moscow Pact

Domei

ISTANBUL, December 23.—President Edouard Benes of the refugee Czechoslovakian Government signed the mutual aid treaty with the Soviet Government at Moscow today and immediately left the Soviet capital for London.

U.S. Explains Pact

Domei

LISBON, December 23.—The United States State Department sought to allay some of the doubts to which the announcement of the Soviet-Czech Pact has given rise to, particularly in Congress, according the correspondent of the Daily Telegraph in his Washington report dated December 15.

The correspondent said: "The State Department issued last night a brief statement that the mutual assistance treaty 'is not understood to be in conflict with the general framework of world security.'

"When Secretary of State Hull addressed Congress on November 18, after his return from the Moscow Conference, he declared that one of its consequences was that 'there will no longer be the need for spheres of influence, alliances, balance of power or any other special arrangements.'

"It is naturally somewhat awkward to find now, that less than one month after Congress had been assured on that point, that the Soviet-Czech treaty has been concluded.

"Accordingly, the State Department was forced to issue the statement, 'this agreement is somewhat after the fashion of the Anglo-Soviet Pact of 1932'."

Parley Rumors Rampant

Domei

STOCKHOLM, December 23.—Various rumors are now being circulated among United States political circles concerning the Cairo and Teheran conferences, because authentic information on these talks is lacking, according to Washington reports to the Tagens Nyheter.

Particularly, it is rumored that at the Cairo Conference, American delegates strongly insisted upon the opening of an offensive operation against Burma, but British representatives refused to agree to the proposal.

Furthermore, at the Teheran Conference, British and American representatives are claimed to have engaged in a heated clash and it is due to these facts that even after his return to Washington, President Roosevelt refrained from saying anything about the conferences.

It is also said that at the Teheran Conference Roosevelt signed a certain secret agreement, which he could not sign without the consent of the Senate.

According to the report to the Tagens Nyheter, American political circles are now making various guesses as to the results of the recent three-Power conferences.

Press Comments

(Continued From Page 1)

full blast of the German offensive single-handed for such a long time, its voice in the anti-Axis has grown alarmingly big. The situation now is such that neither the United States nor Britain can do anything in disregard of Soviet wishes.

Especially to Britain the goodwill of the Soviet Union is a matter of life and death. Britain's reliance on the Soviets is daily increasing. By kowtowing before the Kremlin, thus, Britain has betrayed the weakened state of its national strength. What excuse will Churchill have now for his miscalculation in regard to the Soviet Union, he, who at one time condemned the policy of rapprochement with the Soviets?

Nippon Army Engineer Succeeds In Getting Fresh Water From Sea

For beating American science by a length of several months in developing a process to extract fresh drinking water in unlimited quantities from sea water, and moreover of a purity far greater than obtained by the American methods, Army Engineer Eiji Koyama of the Army Provision Depot was decorated with the Order of Merit, in the list recently announced by the authorities.

The decoration was made for "Research in Eliminating The Salt From Sea Water And Its Practical Application," in which Mr. Koyama succeeded after two and a half years of relentless research. Whereas it had been considered more or less impossible for a long time to develop a scientific process and countless scholars abroad had racked their brains in vain attempts to find a solution, the Japanese engineer succeeded last spring in presenting to the world a perfect method, by which water of the purity of city water can be obtained from sea water.

Concerning the development of this method, which is now being employed by the Japanese Forces in their strategical operations on the Seven Seas, Mr. Koyama gave an interview to the Tokyo Shimbun in which he gave special credit to the efforts of his collaborator, the late Engineer Yamanouchi, who virtually sacrificed his life for the research. The interview follows:

Many Scholars Fail

"The aim of this research is to extract the salt from sea water and thereby gain fresh water, for utilization in strategical operations on the sea. Up to now, research has been carried on by others, too, and the results of those researches have been utilized. But as to a scientific method, all kinds of scholars have been continuing their researches without succeeding to accomplish such a method, and it had been considered impossible to obtain fresh water from sea water by scientific methods.

"But then, why did we start to do research for finding a method which had been thought to be impossible? That was because, in the event of success, the easiest method of obtaining fresh water from sea water would then be possible by certain special processes.

"Now, why had this research been unsuccessful up to the present? As is generally known, sea water contains three per cent of common table salt, magnesium and other kinds of salts. All what had to be done was to eliminate those three per cent or so of salts. All this was, of course, known to the scholars who had done research on this problem, but scientifically it had been thought impossible.

"The late Engineer Yamanouchi, who died in fulfilment of his duties, while engaged in this research, got a certain hint in the autumn of 1941. Being thus confident that he could somehow accomplish a method, he carried on his researches, and by February of this year, the goal of an industrial process was reached. But Mr. Yamanouchi, who had worked day and night for this research without even going home, and had continued his efforts virtually without sleep or rest, died from overwork just before it was possible to complete the scientific process, which is indeed something to be shown to the world with pride. But I think that the soul of Engineer Yamanouchi left this world with satisfaction as he could be given his last earthly drink from water gained from the sea water through the method for the research of which he had sacrificed his life.

Better Than America

"Now, what is the situation concerning this research on the enemy side, in America? In an announcement made last April by the United States Office of War Information, the method of distillation was said to be the best. But, then, in another announcement in June, it was said that since April in America they had been using the same method as in Japan, that is to say, a scientific method of extracting the salt through two kinds of chemicals. This way of entirely reversing the meaning of the announcement made in April seems like a typical case of American propaganda. In fact, the research in America was completed only in June, and thus the triumph went to Japan.

"Moreover, by the method achieved by our side, all other elements of the sea water are completely eliminated, and the result is water which differs in no way from city water. But in the case of the American method, large quantities of sulphur remain, and the result cannot be said yet to be pure drinking water. Thus, not only with regard to the date of accomplishment, but also with regard to the technical side, Japan has gained the victory.

"One more thing I wish to add in the end is that we have not won this victory all by our own efforts alone. But it was through the crystallization of the efforts of such collaborators as Lieutenant Yamanaka, Sub-Lieutenant Kobayashi, and Dr. Shimose of the Physico-Chemical Industries Institute (Riken Kogyo), that this difficult work could be accomplished."

Chiang's Air Force Suffers Heavy Toll

(Continued From Page 1)

gong raid on October 20. Some enemy activity was imagined in the December 5 raid on Calcutta but the Japanese planes fought about 60 Hurricanes and P-51's. The several hundred enemy planes distributed around Calcutta seemed struck into stupified inaction by the powerful Japanese raid. The first real fighting occurred in the raid on Tinsukia but in 30 minutes of fighting, 16 enemy fighters were shot down, revealing again their complete impotency. In other points on the Indo-Burmese border, the enemy planes take off and flee hastily whenever there is a Japanese raid, which goes to show that they have no more fighting will left.

Moved to fear by the furious Japanese attacks, the enemy even began sending out its units which had been sent to India with the objective of replenishing its forces in China. With formation of some score of fighters and bombers, the enemy tried to raid Rangoon on several occasions. How disorganized and hasty the enemy is was clearly indicated when a B-24 aboard which was a flying officer was shot down near X X. The flying officer, as well as the other members of his crew, did not even know each other's names.

This shows that these men were sent out on raids against Burma immediately upon reaching India from America and that they took off, according to local organization, without knowing the names of those they were going along with. They introduced themselves only after they had been taken prisoners by the Japanese Forces.

The decline in the quality of the enemy airmen is also remarkable. One enemy airman "emergency-landed" in Burma through a mistake in navigation, while another hurtled toward a Japanese plane which had used up all its ammunition but plunged into the sea when the Japanese plane dodged neatly out of its way.

Numerous obstacles lie in the path of the enemy. The long route from America to Karachi, India, via Natal in Brazil, Dakar in Africa, Cairo, and Aden is not serving satisfactorily. The bottleneck of the air route from India to the China Continent too is being pressured by the Japanese airmen. Thus, the enemy can do nothing else than carry out futile guerrilla-like operations, operations which are only an excuse for action.

The fact that in contrast to the situation in which the Japanese Air Forces have been carrying out continual and furious attacks on the enemy since the end of the rainy season, the enemy operations are carried out haphazardly and is also proof that the enemy has no central operation aim in its air attacks in the Burma area. Thus, in spite of exaggerated propaganda released during the rainy period, the enemy air forces have turned out to be impotent and they are continuing to attempt to carry out indiscriminate bombing raids on Burma aiming at propagandistic effect and the creation of disorder in the country.

Women's Association Doing Great Work In Finding Mates for Disabled Heroes

Investigations into the number of marriages of disabled soldiers, encouraged and consummated through the efforts of the Japan Women's Association, have revealed that 370 new homes have already been started. Reports were sent in from more than 20 of the association's branches. Seven out of the 370 couples were married while the grooms were still in hospitals.

The brides have entered into their married lives, determined to become the hands and feet of their disabled husbands and to be the supporting strength in helping their mates to readjust themselves.

Wedding ceremonies were observed in the uniforms of the Japan Women's Association, and, needless to say, these marriages have contributed greatly toward reformation in the marriage customs of districts, bound by rigid ties of old tradition and formality.

The association is planning to confer awards on the more meritorious of the wives of disabled ex-soldiers sometime next spring.

U.S. PROFITEERS HIT BY SENATOR

Walsh Says America Must End Excessive Wartime Profits

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—According to Washington reports, Senator David Walsh has declared that the American people will be shocked when the profits on the war contracts are disclosed.

The Senator made the statement in announcing that he would oppose several proposed changes in the laws covering war contracts when the tax bill which carries them is debated in the Senate.

He declared, "Personally, I feel strongly that we owe it to our fighting forces to eliminate as far as is humanly possible the excessive war profits as well as to remove the responsibility for the new crop of war profiteers. When the record of profit-making on war contracts is disclosed, the American people, in my opinion, will be shocked."

Sugary Message Given

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 23.—President Roosevelt delivered a Christmas message over the radio, today, addressed to all the American troops fighting on the various battle-fronts, according to a Washington dispatch.

In a melodramatic speech, he loudly praised the loyalty and bravery of the Yankee fighting men, and, recalling the past two years of the war, conveniently sugar-coated the results so far obtained, the dispatch disclosed.

No Paper on Xmas

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 22.—The San Francisco News has announced that no display advertisements would be accepted for the December 23-24 issues of the paper and that Christmas Day would be a newspaper holiday owing to shortage of newsprint.

To Hold Rugby Meet

Domei

BALIK PAPAN, December 23.—A three-day New Year rugby tournament will be held here under the sponsorship of the Japanese Administration assisted by the Federation of Industries in order to stimulate the aspirations of the native youths.

As rugby is the only sport participated in by the native inhabitants, the coming event has been received with great enthusiasm and anticipation by the entire native population. Various teams throughout the city have already commenced vigorous practices in preparation for the meet.

U.S. Pilot Killed in Crash

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 23.—Lieutenant Colonel William Dyes, 27, who fought in aerial warfare over Bataan Peninsula, died yesterday, when the plane which he was piloting, developed engine trouble immediately after he had taken-off from the Grand Central Air Depot and he was unable to gain sufficient altitude, according to a San Francisco dispatch.

Nippon Times
The Nippon Times, Limited
TOSHI GO, President and Editor

TOKYO OFFICE:
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Telephone: Ginza (57) [illegible] 5859, 7003.
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Jugoslav Partisan Party Prohibits Return of King

Domei

LISBON, December 23.—General Josep "Tito" Brozovich, Commander of the Jugoslav Partisan Party, has issued a proclamation forbidding the return of youthful King Peter to his country "until after the Germans are driven out."

General Brozovich's supporters are maintaining that King Peter and his exile government at Cairo principally represent the Serb elements in Jugoslavia, while the Partisans have the support of all the numerous racial and religious groups in the country.

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